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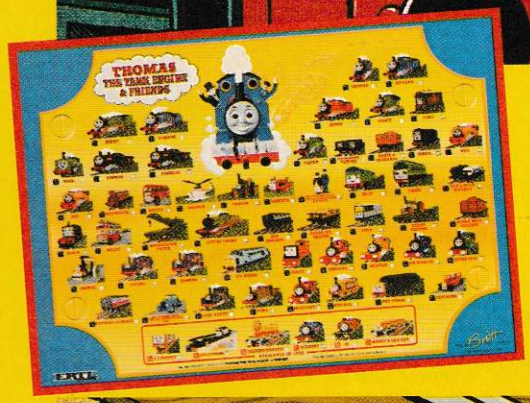
THOMAS THE TANK ENGINE & FRIENDS™

Based on the Railway Series by The Rev. W. Awdry.

THOMAS THE TANK ENGINE & FRIENDS



FREE POSTER INSIDE!

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1st Oct. 1997

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Puzzles · Reading · Colouring

Hello, everybody!

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Island of Sodor Railway

This comic belongs to .....

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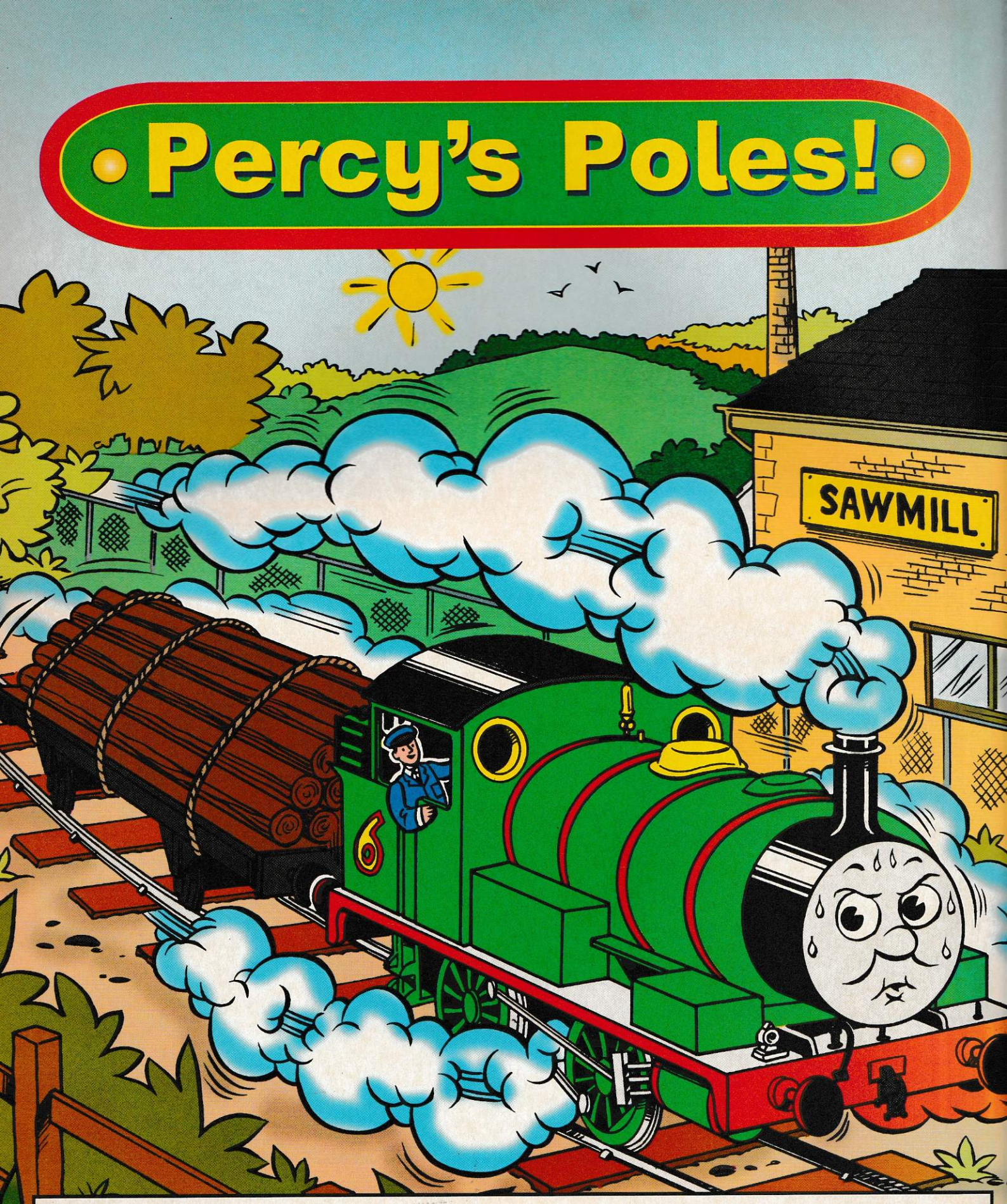
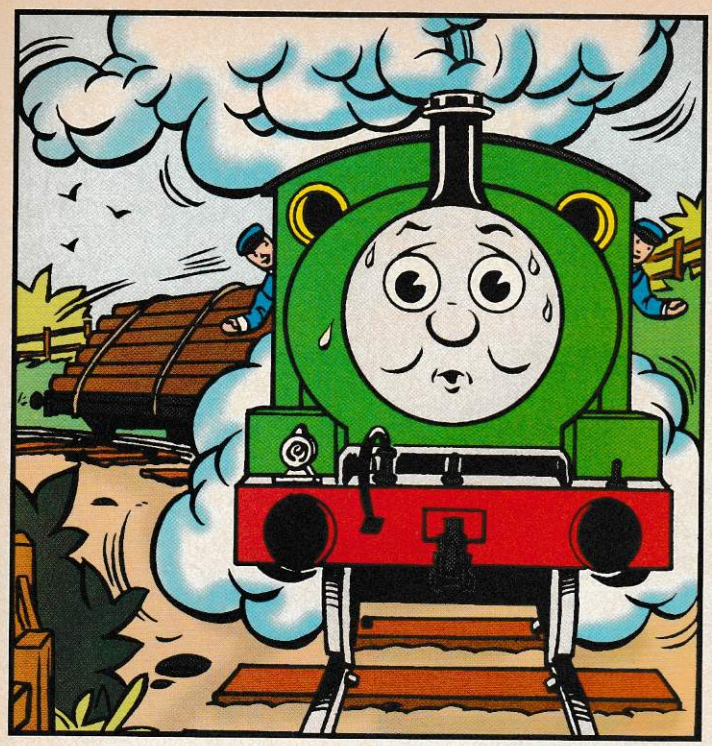
Percy's Poles!



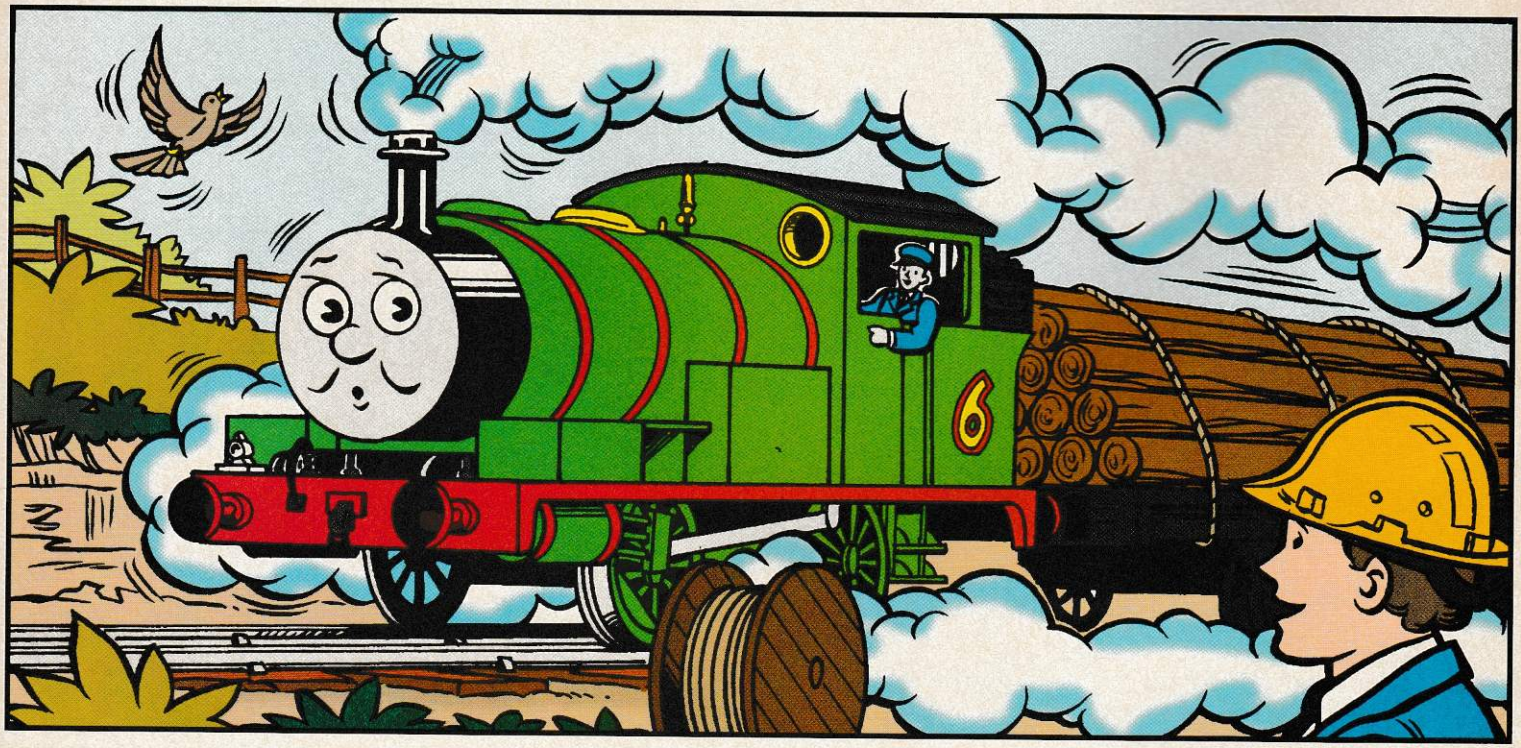
1. Percy was not feeling at all happy. He had never worked so hard. The Fat Controller had sent him to the big sawmill on Thomas' branch line to collect a very unusual load.

2. Lots of long telegraph poles had been specially cut. They were fixed securely on to a flat truck coupled to Percy. Then he set off to deliver them all. It was a tiring journey.



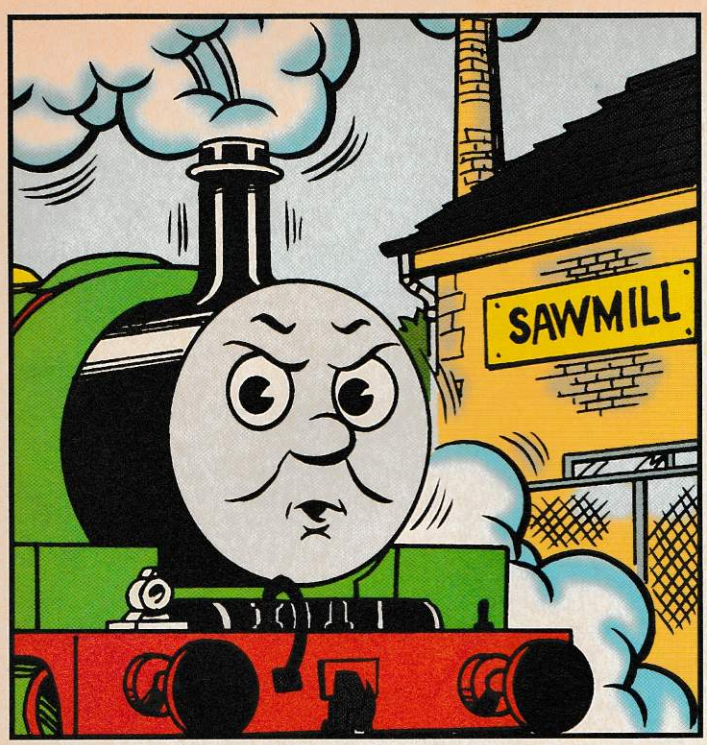
3. "Phew! I can't remember pulling a heavier weight in my life!" Percy huffed and puffed, miserably. "Who does the Fat Controller think I am? I'm not big and strong like Gordon!"

4. "Cheer up, Percy!" shouted his driver. "It's a Really Useful task. The poles are needed to put up a new telephone line, to be used by people in the isolated villages."

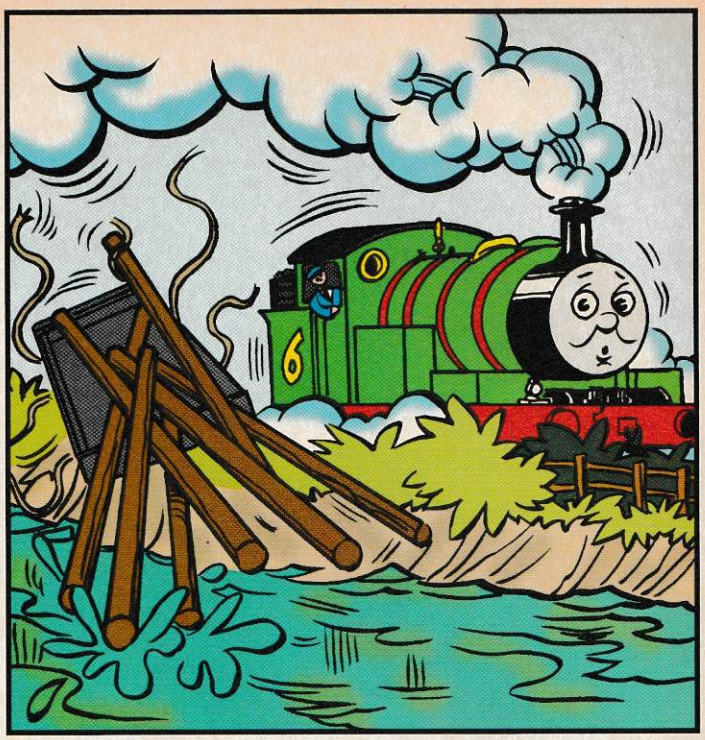


5. "That's supposing I can deliver them without bursting my boiler!" grumbled Percy. He strained so hard his face turned red. Percy chugged beside a fast-flowing river.

6. When it reached lower ground, the water was calmer. Percy noticed some workmen waiting for him. No sooner were the telegraph poles unloaded than Percy had to get more.



7. "I'll only be fit for scrap at this rate!" he fumed. Back at the sawmill, his truck was piled up with poles for a second time. Then Percy left to follow the river again.



8. Suddenly, his wheels slipped and Percy jolted hard. His truck lurched and all the poles broke loose. They caused his truck to tip right over. The poles rolled into the water.

9. SPLASH! SPLOSH! What a noise they made. Shocked, Percy braked sharply. He was just in time to see the poles float away down river. "Bumping buffers!" gasped Percy.

10. There was nothing he could do. Percy was upset. Although he complained, he wanted to be a Really Useful Engine. He could only wait while his guard went for help.

11. At last, Thomas arrived with a crane to lift Percy's truck back on to the rails. "It's all my fault," said Percy. "Now those poles have gone, it will delay the phone line."

12. "Oh, I don't think so," smiled Thomas. Percy was puzzled. "What do you mean?" he asked. "You'll soon see," replied Thomas, who puffed on ahead. Percy quickly followed him.

13. Both engines neared the workmen who were putting up the other poles. "Bad news!" called Percy's driver, about to explain. "But all the poles are here," one man pointed and laughed.

14. They had floated to the exact spot so Thomas could lift them out of the water with his crane. "They got here faster by river and I didn't have to carry them!" grinned Percy.

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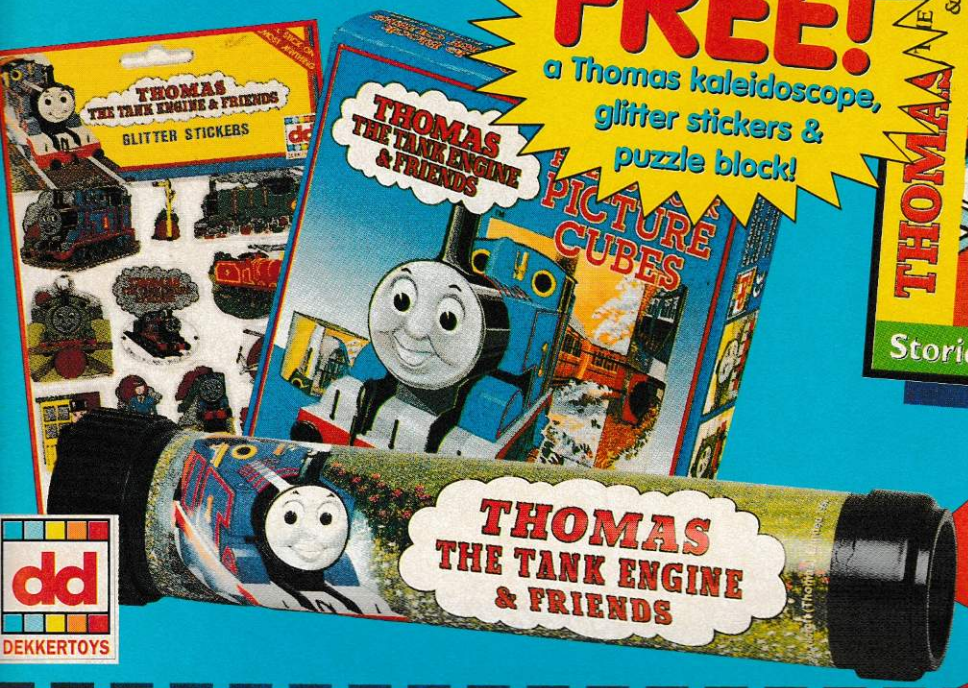

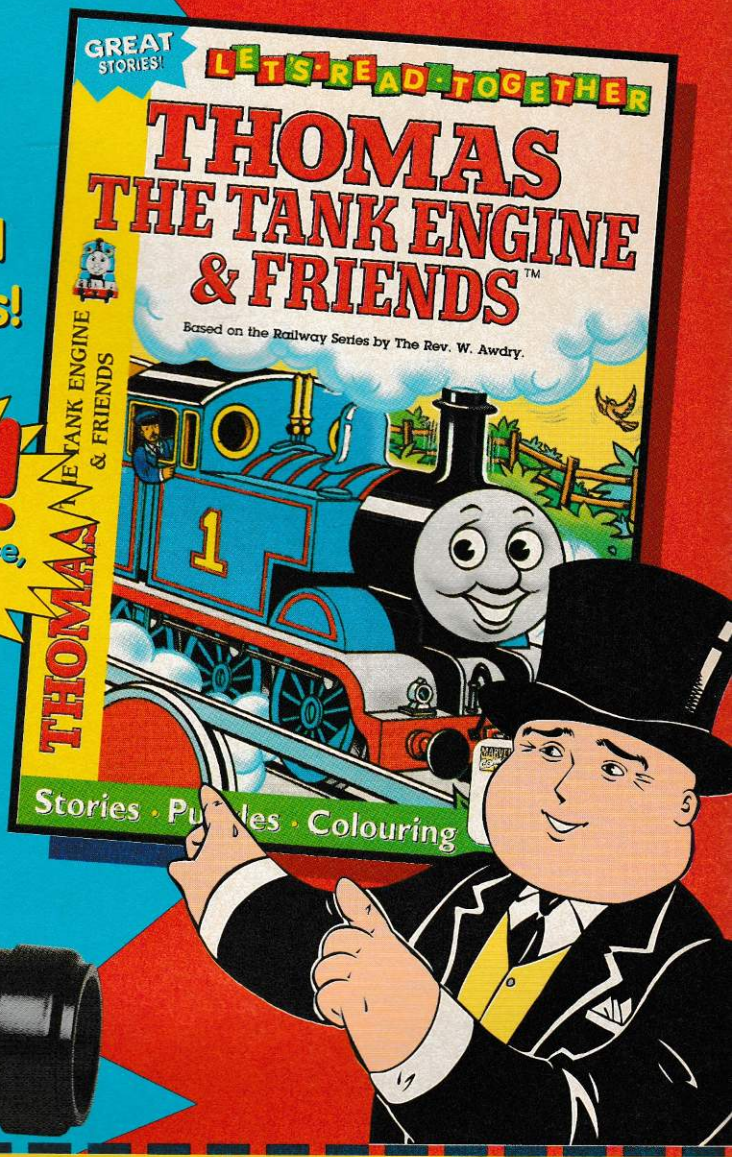

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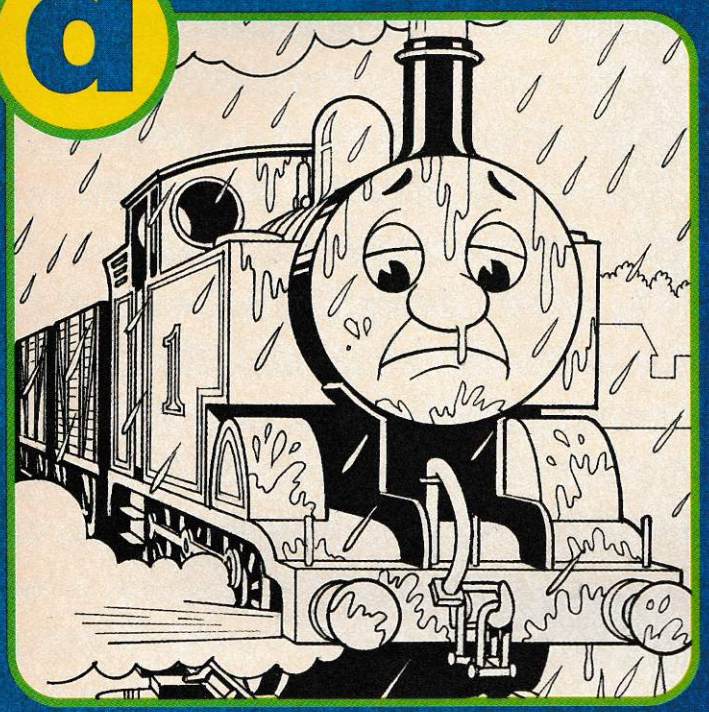
Odd one out!

Look carefully at the pictures below, as Thomas has been caught in the rain. Which one is the odd one out, and which three are the same?

a



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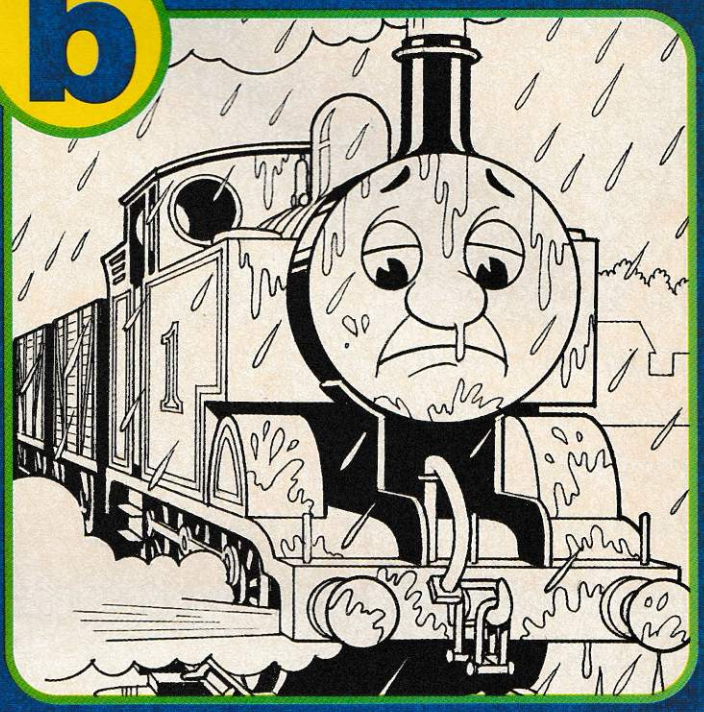

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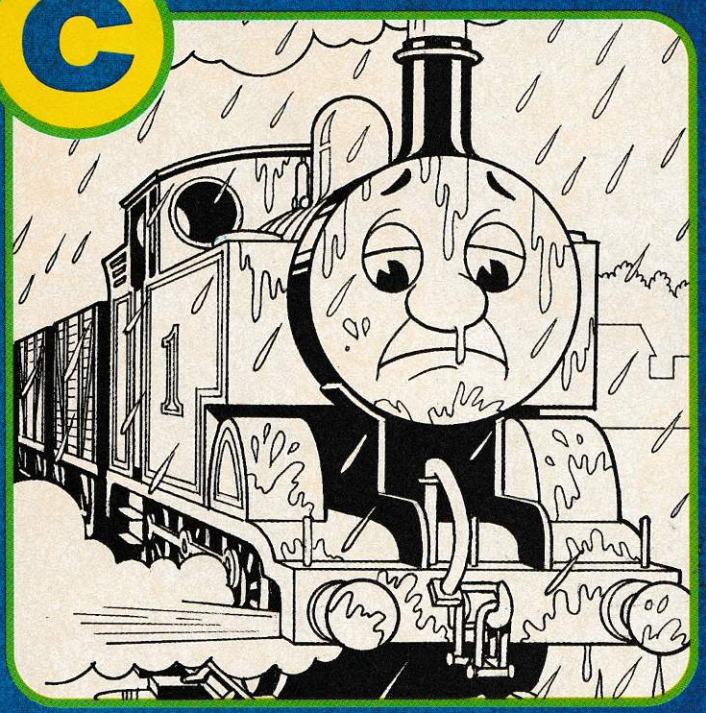

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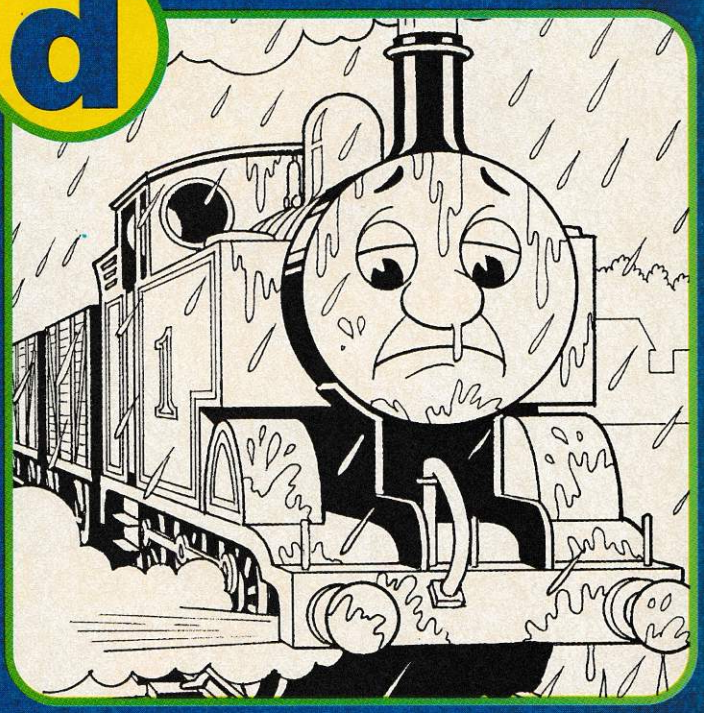
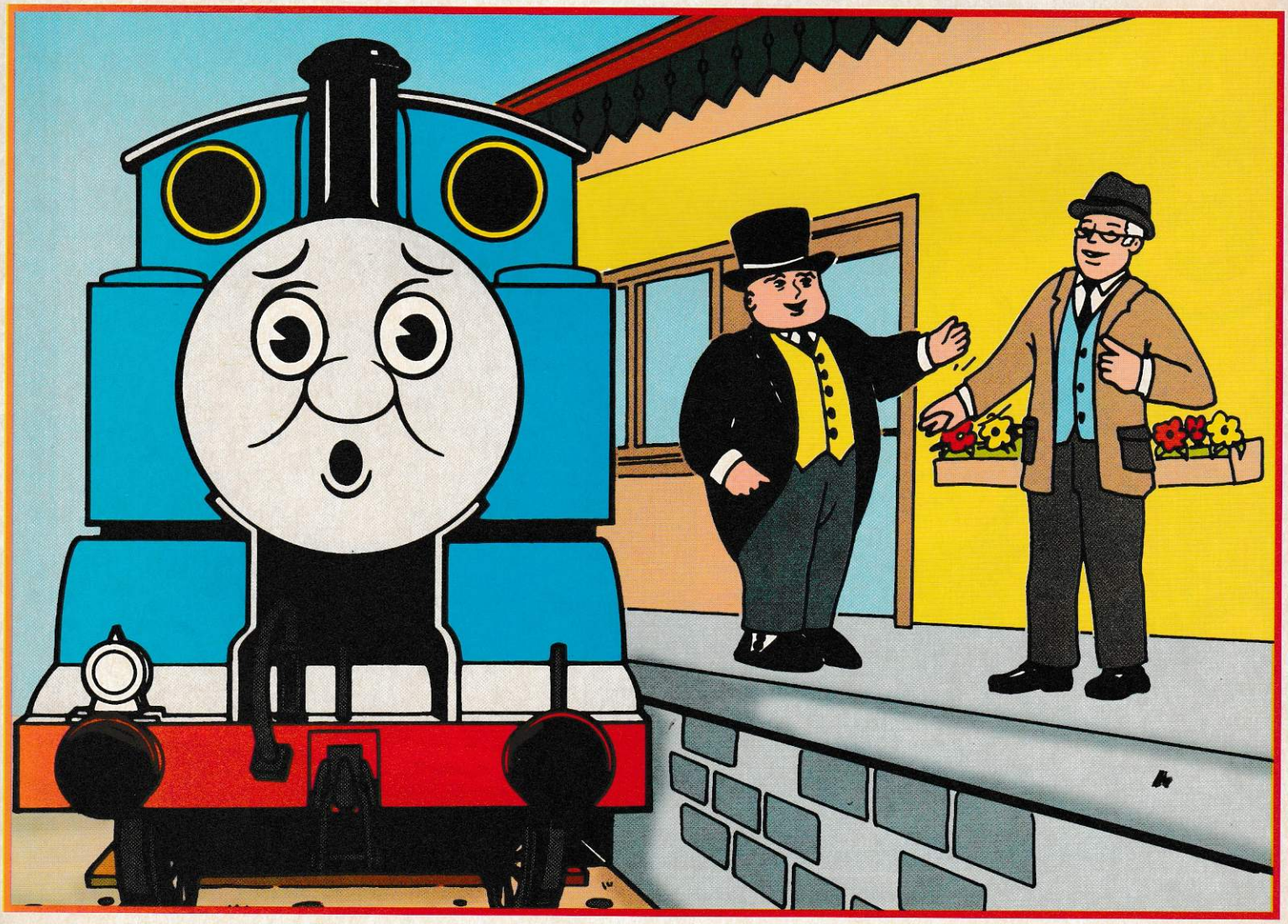


Answer: Picture d is the odd one out as Thomas has no coupling hook here!

For sale?

Thomas was waiting to be coupled to a goods train before his journey to the harbour. The Fat Controller passed by with a distinguished looking gentleman. "I've decided to sell the railway," Thomas overheard the Fat controller saying. "My engines are getting too old. Why, some of them are almost ancient!" The visitor nodded at the Fat Controller. "I've looked them over, they're all in very good condition. I'd like to buy them and display them in my museum."

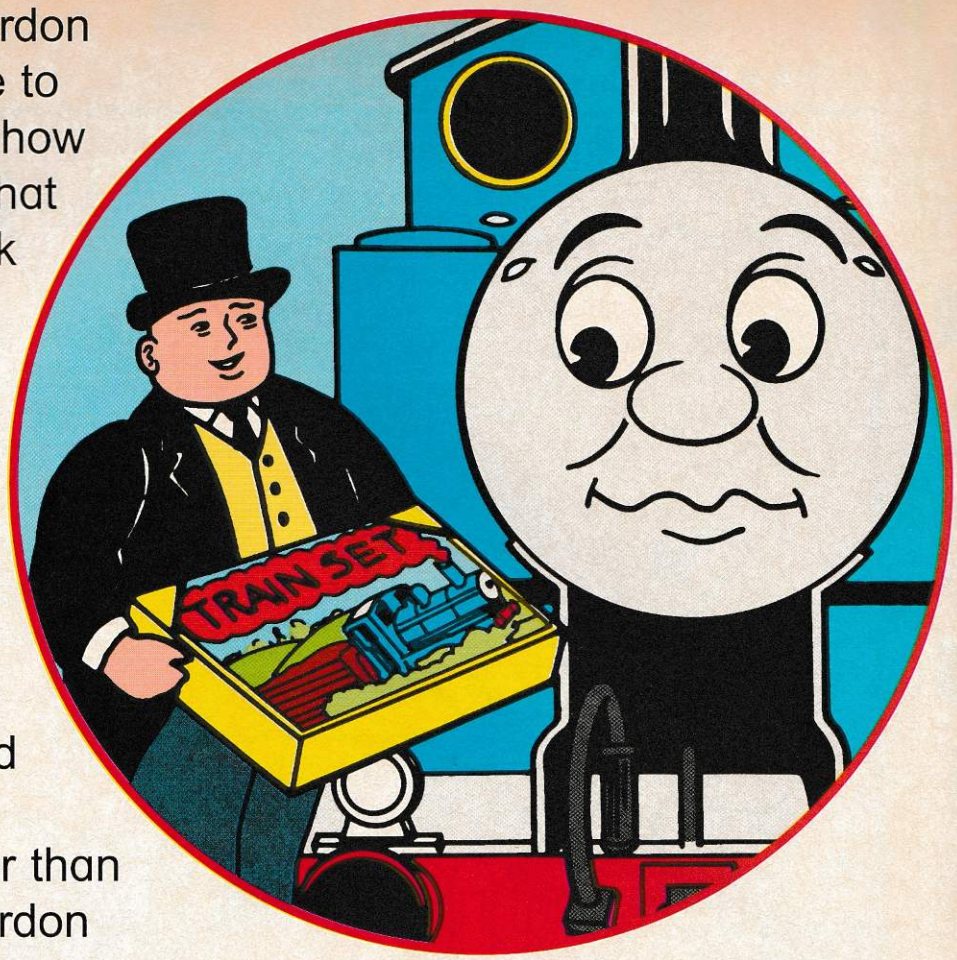
Thomas was shocked. "Oh, my goodness, the Fat Controller is selling the railway!" he cried. "We're all going to end up in a stuffy old museum!" That evening, after work, Thomas told the other engines what he had heard. "What are we going to do?" wailed Percy. "I'm too young to



be put into a museum!" Gordon took command. "We'll have to prove to the Fat Controller how Useful we are," he said. "That means everyone must work twice as hard."

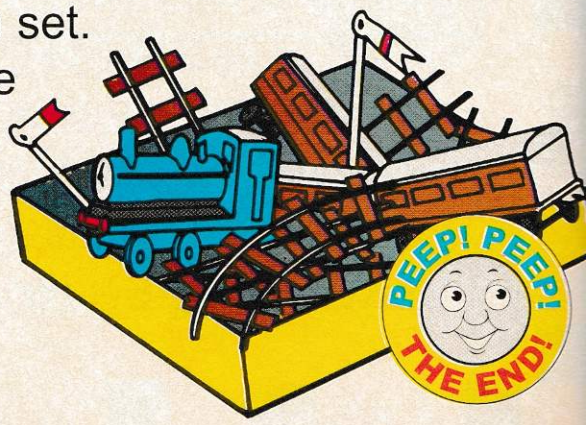
The next day, when the goods trains were being coupled to Percy and Edward for a trip to the quarry, they both insisted on taking them alone. "I don't need Edward, I can pull them both myself," said Percy. "Rubbish," snapped Edward, "I'm much stronger than you are. I'll take them." Gordon and Thomas were arguing over who could carry the most passengers. Their drivers became cross. "Behave or you won't go out at all!" scolded Gordon's driver. All day, the engines argued with each other. This worried Thomas. "If the Fat Controller hears us arguing, he'll sell us for certain," he thought.

On one of his trips around the Island, Thomas recognised the distinguished looking gentleman he'd seen earlier. As he was boarding Annie, Thomas couldn't help but call out, "please Sir, don't buy the railway!" The gentleman was startled. "Why ever not?" he replied. "We don't want to be put in a museum!" Thomas continued. The gentleman laughed,



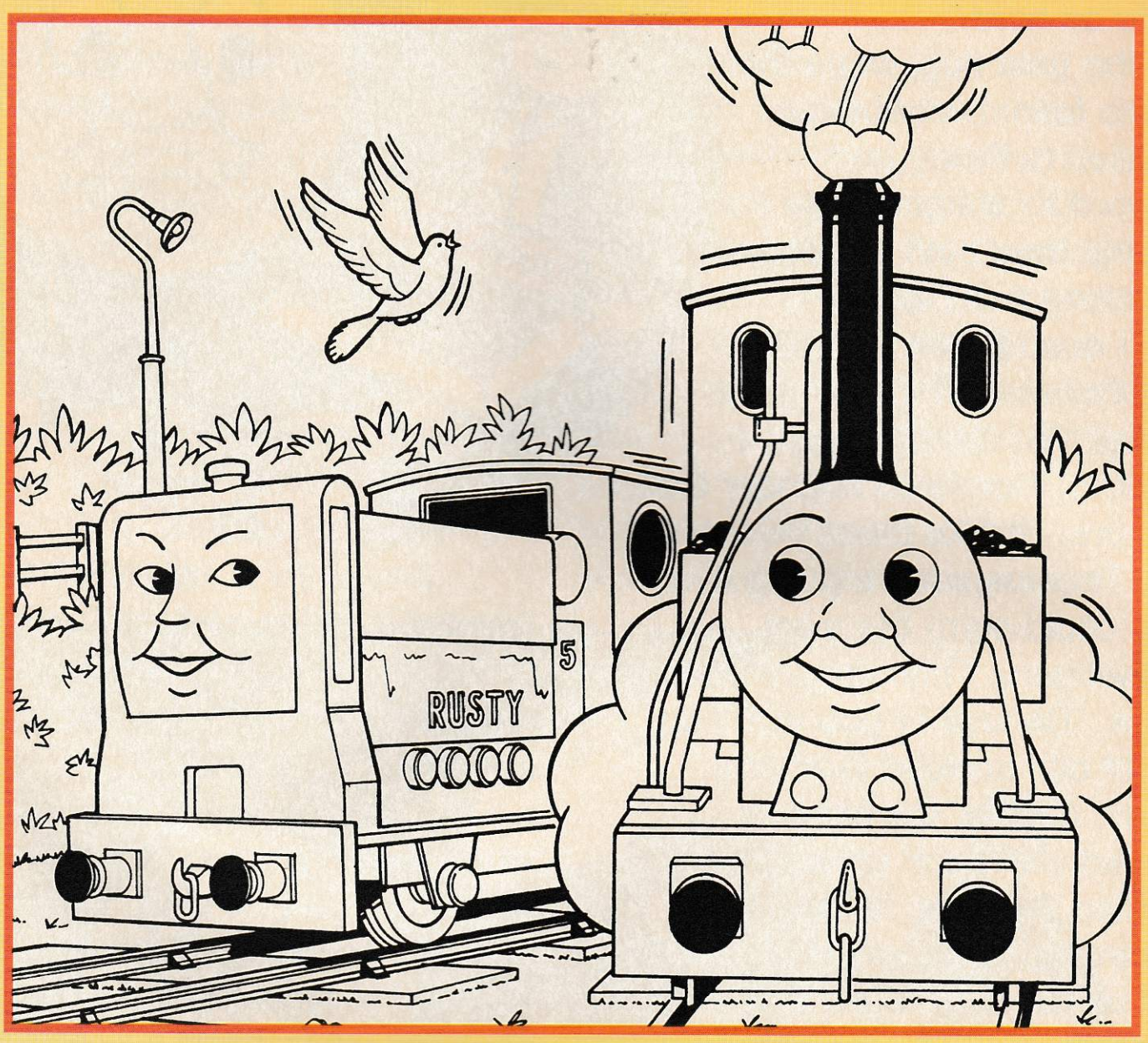
"goodness, there certainly won't be any room for real engines in my little museum!" Thomas was still a little confused!

The Fat Controller laughed too when the gentleman told him what Thomas had said. "You silly engines," he began to explain, "the railway I'm selling is an old train set I had when I was a boy. I've no use for it now. Especially as I have a real one!" he chuckled. He showed the engines his battered toy train set. Well, the engines felt very silly indeed!

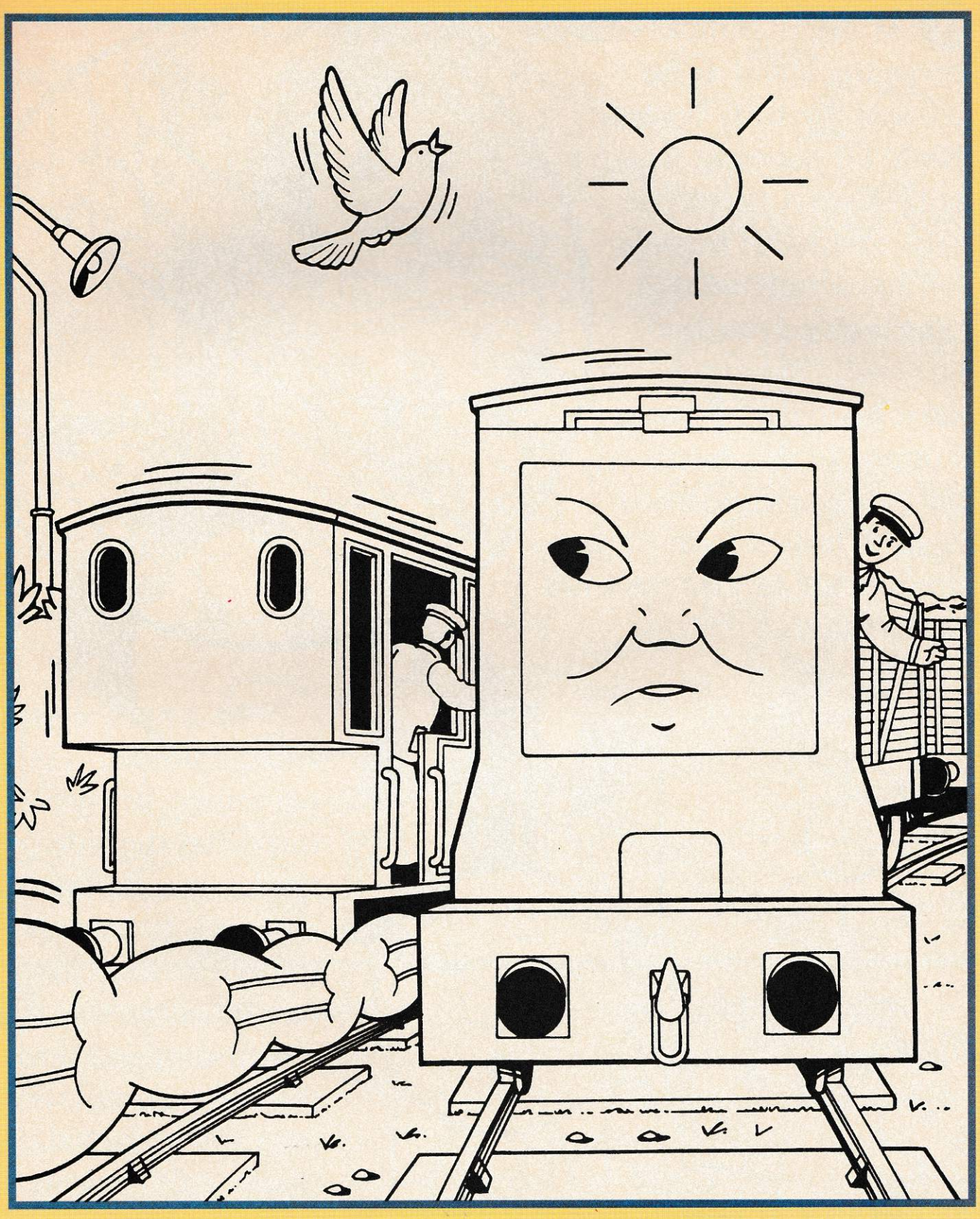


A read & colour story

Rock & Roll Rescue!

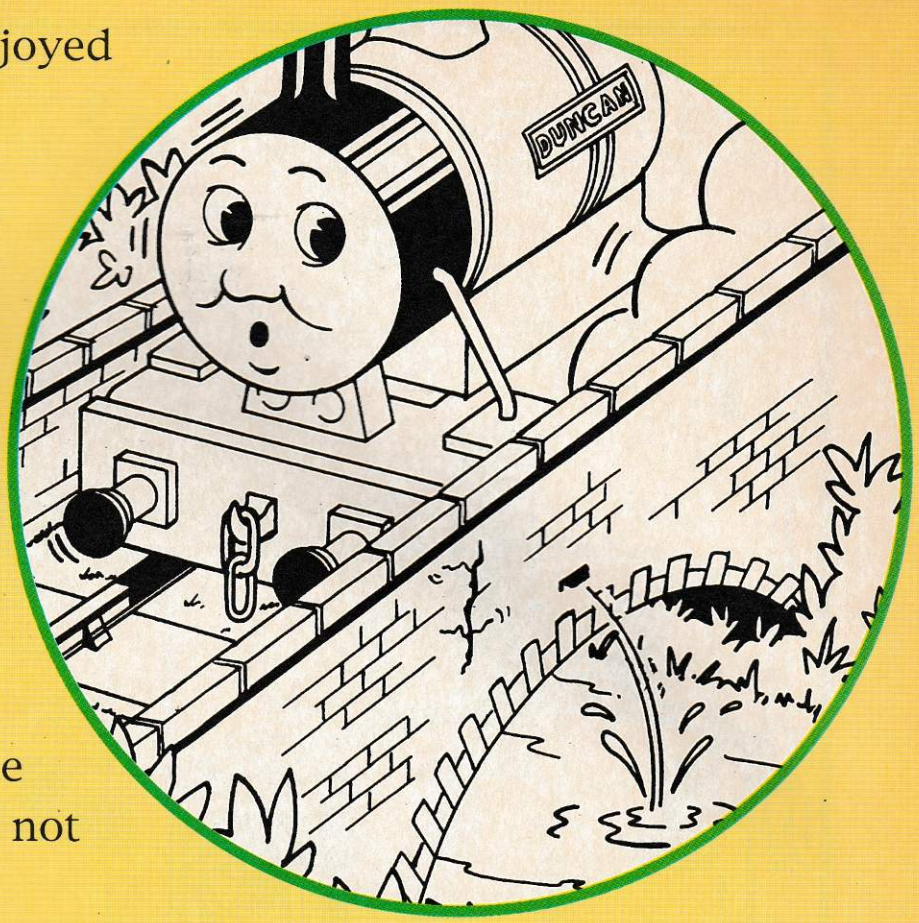


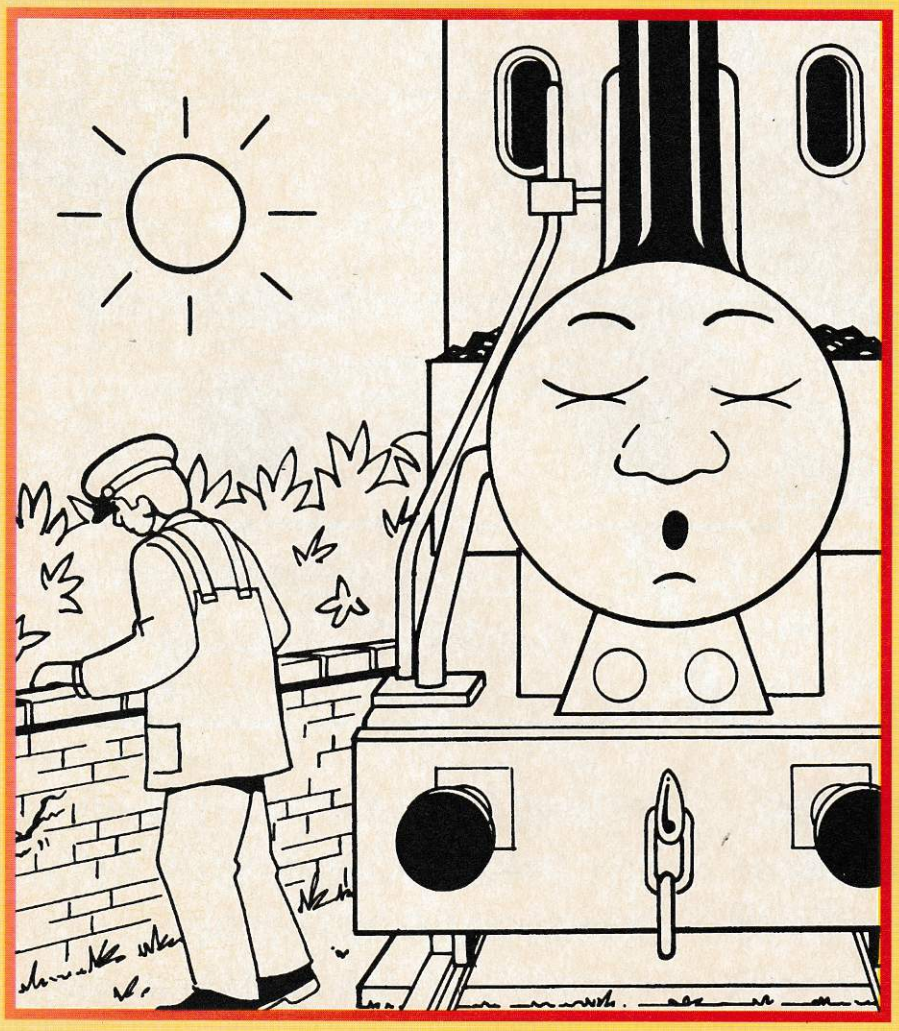
1 Rusty looked after the track on the little railway. His friend Duncan always swung, swivelled and swayed along the track. "Be careful!" Rusty would call. "Why? I like to rock and roll!" Duncan would reply, rushing by. "It's high time you stopped rocking and rolling. You're not a pop star!" warned Rusty. "One day, you might have an accident!" "Och! What nonsense!" said Duncan, rudely. He was a stubborn engine, with a mind of his own!



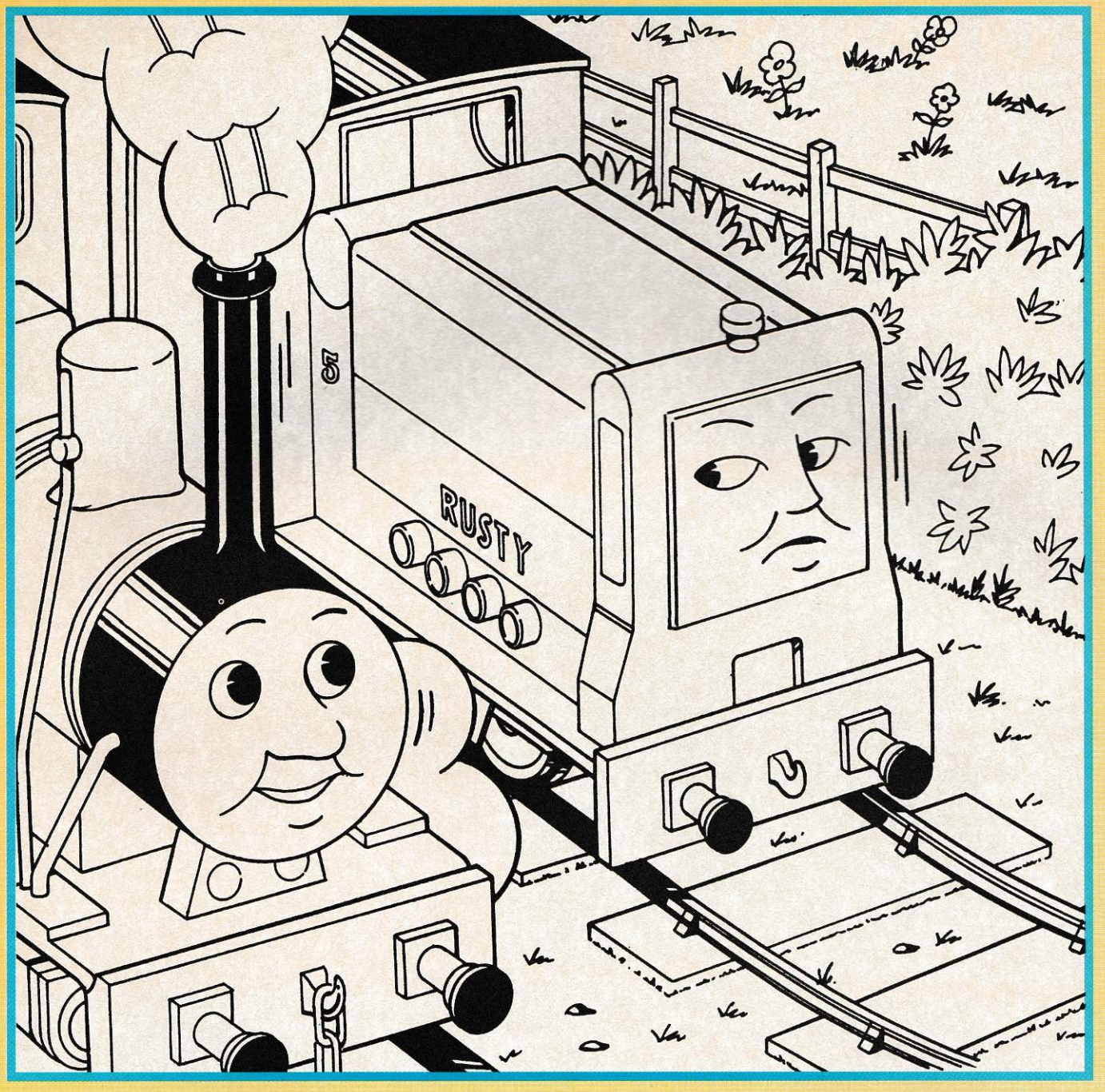
2 "It's thanks to your hard work keeping the track safe, Rusty, that I can rock and roll all I like!" added Duncan, rolling from side to side on the track. "It's perfectly safe," Rusty could hear him shouting in the distance.

3 As usual, Duncan enjoyed bouncing about as he crossed the little bridge. "Och! I'll not have Rusty tell me what to do!" he said. Suddenly, Duncan felt his wheels wobble. "Sleepers and ballast!" he cried. "The track must be loose!" Duncan stopped in the centre of the bridge as his driver went to have a look. "The line's fine," he said. "It's not Rusty's fault."





4 "So what's wrong?" asked Duncan, nervously. His driver inspected the side of the bridge. He spotted a big crack. Some of the bricks were loose, too. When he touched one, it dropped into the river, far below, with a SPLOSSH! "Och, dear!" said Duncan, anxiously. "I'm not budging so much as a buffer or I might fall in, too!" he said, as he shut his eyes, tightly.



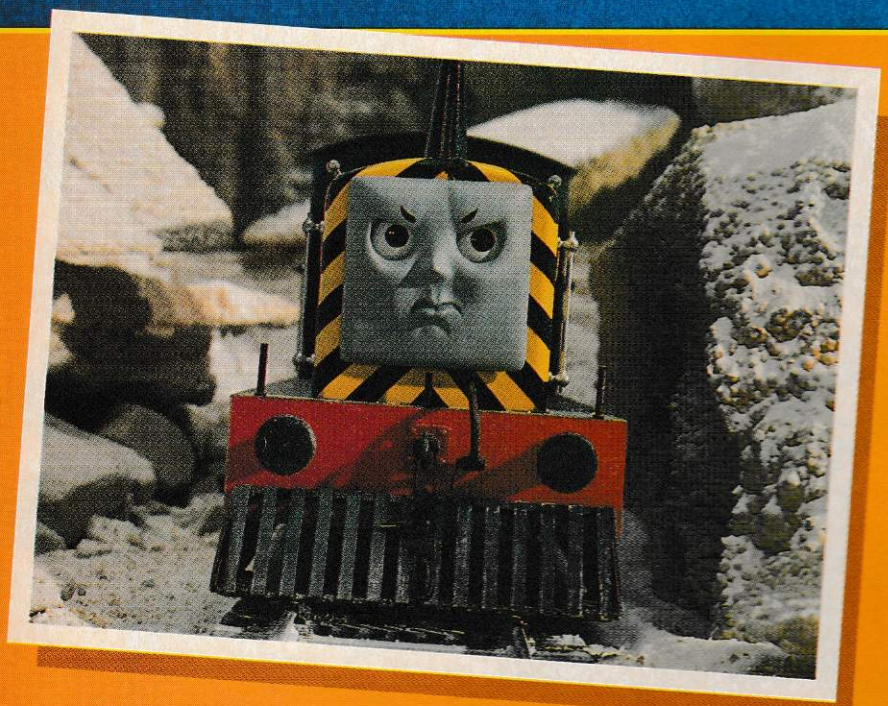
5 Duncan's driver went to get help. He soon returned with Rusty and some workmen. "I daren't move!" called Duncan. "What shall I do?" Now he was only too pleased to listen to Rusty. "Keep calm and back up slowly until you're off the bridge," said Rusty. Poor Duncan was very frightened. But he did as he was told and was soon safely clear. "All your rocking and rolling has loosened those bricks," scolded Rusty. "But we'll soon have the bridge mended." "I've learned my lesson," said Duncan. "That's the last time I rock and roll!" Do you believe him?

The end

Toby's Tightrope!

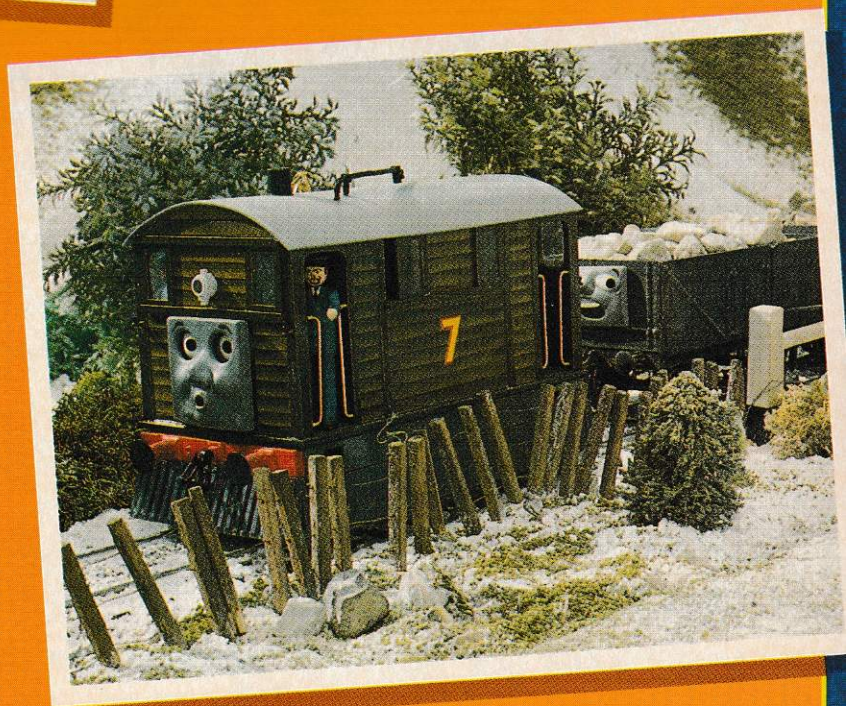
Based on *The Railway Series* by the Rev W Awdry.

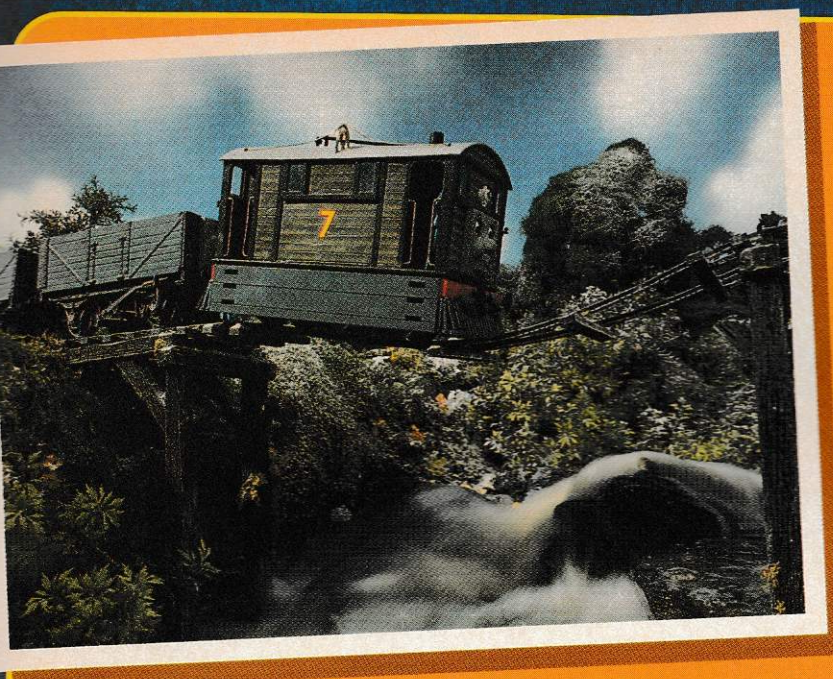
Percy went to the quarry to collect some stones for his trucks. He found Mavis the new diesel engine there, alone and looking unhappy. "Cheer up, Mavis," he whistled. "Toby's a fusspot," she said. "He says I have no business on his line and tells me where to put my trucks."



1 Percy advised her that she should just put the trucks where Toby wanted them so she would be a Really Useful Engine. But the sidings were awkward. Mavis would have to make several jouneys to put the trucks where Toby wanted. She started making a plan.

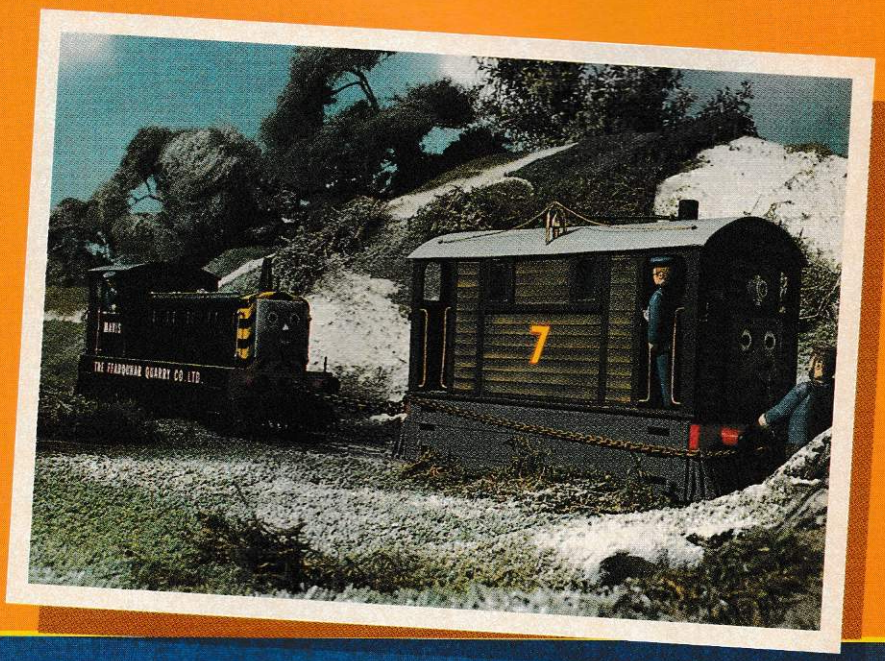
2 Mavis decided to go down more and more of Toby's line and make it look like it wasn't her fault. She asked the trucks to bump her at the level crossing so that she could go a bit further, and made them promise not to tell anyone. But whilst Mavis was away, Toby arrived. He decided to shunt the trucks himself.





3 The trucks decided to bump Toby anyway. They pushed him all the way to the edge of a bridge which was about to collapse! The rails were like a tightrope across the thundering water below. "Stop!" cried Toby. The driver braked and Toby stopped, on the rails but with his wheels treading the tightrope over the abyss.

4 Mavis was horrified and quickly came to pull Toby and the trucks to safety. The Fat Controller was very impressed with Mavis for saving Toby. It was soon arranged that Mavis could go down Toby's line to help him. Mavis is now happy that she's Really Useful indeed!



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Five lucky winners can win a splendid model of Toby from the ERTL engine range! Just send a postcard, with your name, age and address to: Thomas/260 model competition, Marvel Comics, Panini House, Coach and Horses Passage, The Pantiles, Tunbridge Wells, Kent, TN2 5UJ.

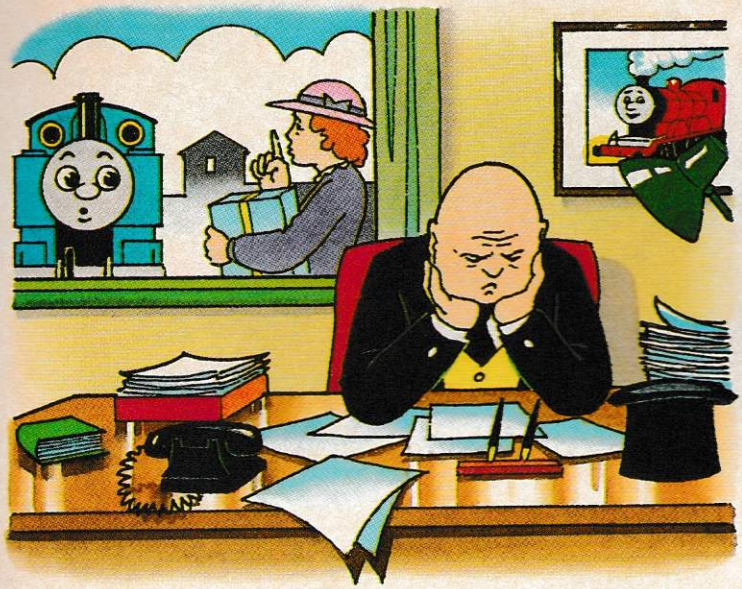
Closing date: October 8th, 1997.

Station Mystery

The beautiful sunny weather had brought lots of holiday-makers to the Island of Sodor. The Fat Controller was very busy organising trips to the seaside and days out in the country. He was so busy, in fact, that he even forgot it was his birthday on Saturday!

When Saturday came, the Fat Controller was up very early. He waved goodbye to Lady Hatt, and Stephen and Bridget. "See you later!" he called. Then he set off for his office at the Main Station. The children were disappointed. "He's forgotten what day it is!" Stephen said. "What a shame," replied Bridget. "We'll have to give him his cards and presents when he gets home." "I've a better idea," said Lady Hatt brightly.

That afternoon, the Fat Controller was busy working out a new engine timetable in his office. He did not see Lady Hatt tiptoe past his office. She was carrying a large box into the

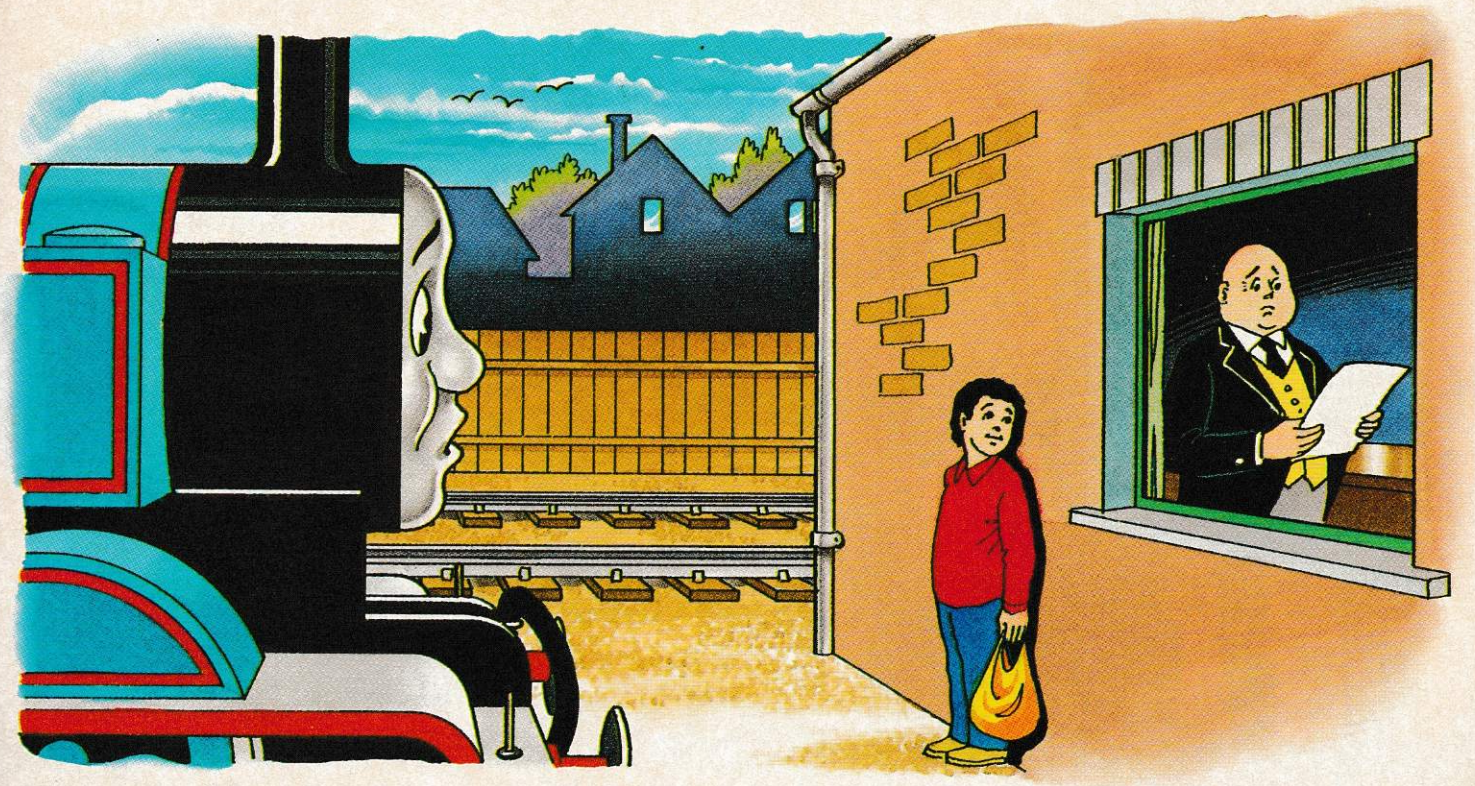


station waiting room. Thomas noticed her as he was shunting trucks in the yard, nearby.
"Peep! Peep!" he whistled.
"Ssssh!" said Lady Hatt. Thomas was puzzled. "What's going on?" he thought.

Next, he saw Bridget in the engine yard. She was talking to the drivers and pointing towards the Fat Controller's office. They were all laughing and nodding. Then Bridget waved to Thomas and disappeared into the waiting room after Lady Hatt.

Shortly afterwards, Thomas spotted Stephen. He was trying to sneak past a window. Just then, the Fat Controller walked by and Stephen quickly hid so he could not be seen.
"Why is everyone behaving so strangely?" thought Thomas, "Perhaps they're playing a game of hide and seek!"

When the engines had finished work, all the railway staff went to the waiting room. Then Lady Hatt asked Thomas' driver to call the Fat Controller. "You're wanted in the station



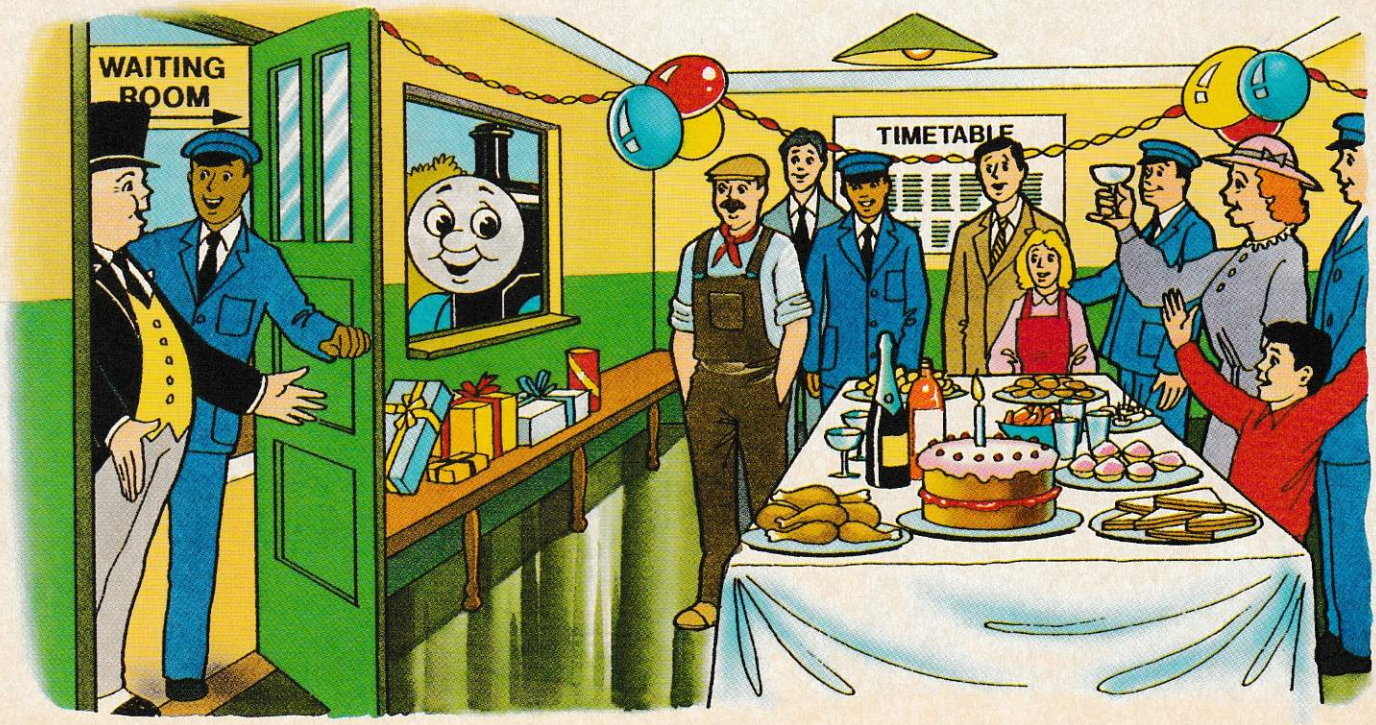
waiting room, Sir" he told him. The Fat Controller frowned, "Oh dear, I hope there aren't any problems," he said.

On the way, the Fat Controller stopped. "I'd better call Lady Hatt and tell her I'll be home late," he said. The driver had to think quickly! "Oh no, Sir, I think you'd better hurry, this is an emergency!" "What on earth can be so important?" the Fat Controller exclaimed as he opened the door.

"Your surprise party!" everyone cheered. They all began to sing 'Happy Birthday'. The Fat Controller was delighted. "Goodness me! I have been so busy, that I forgot my own birthday!" The waiting room was decorated with balloons and streamers. There were presents, a cake and lots of delicious food on a table.

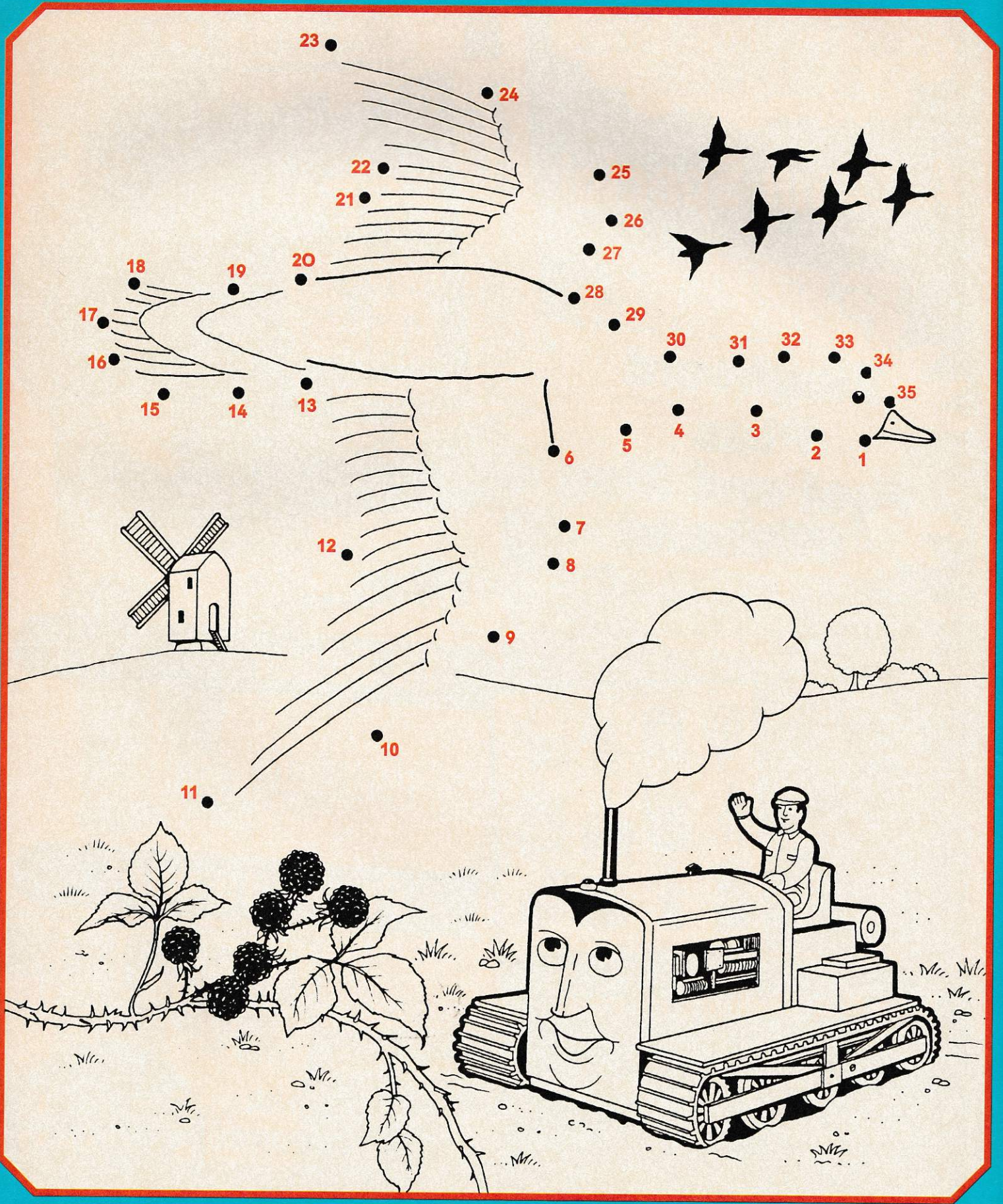
Thomas had been so curious that he was peeking through the window. "Mystery solved!" he laughed.

THE END



Dot to dot!

Something's way up in the sky, can you see what's flying high?



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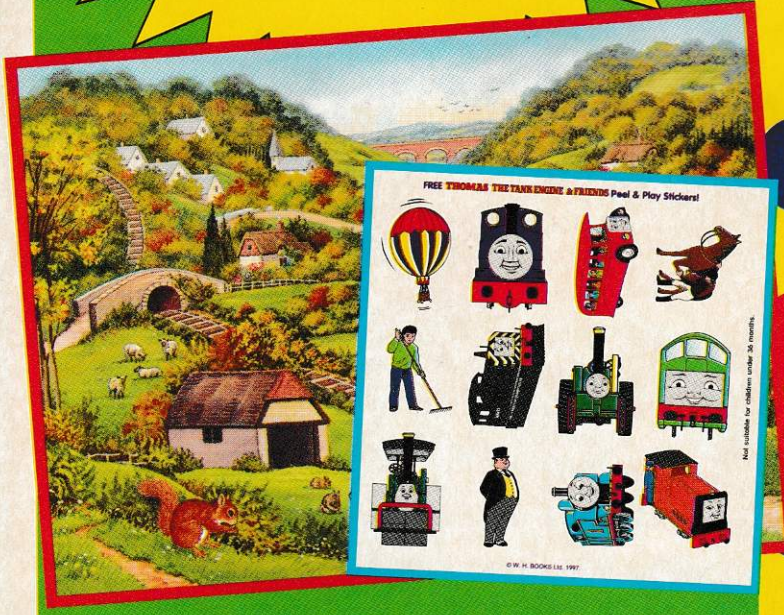

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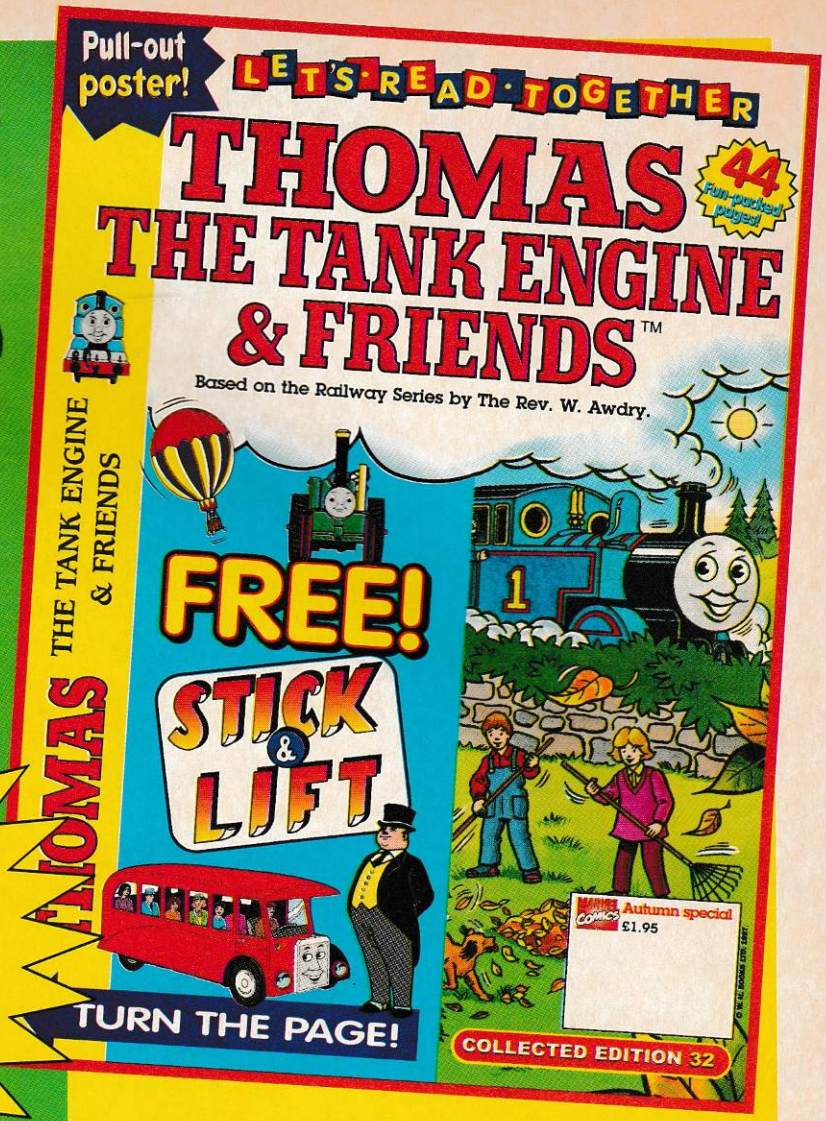

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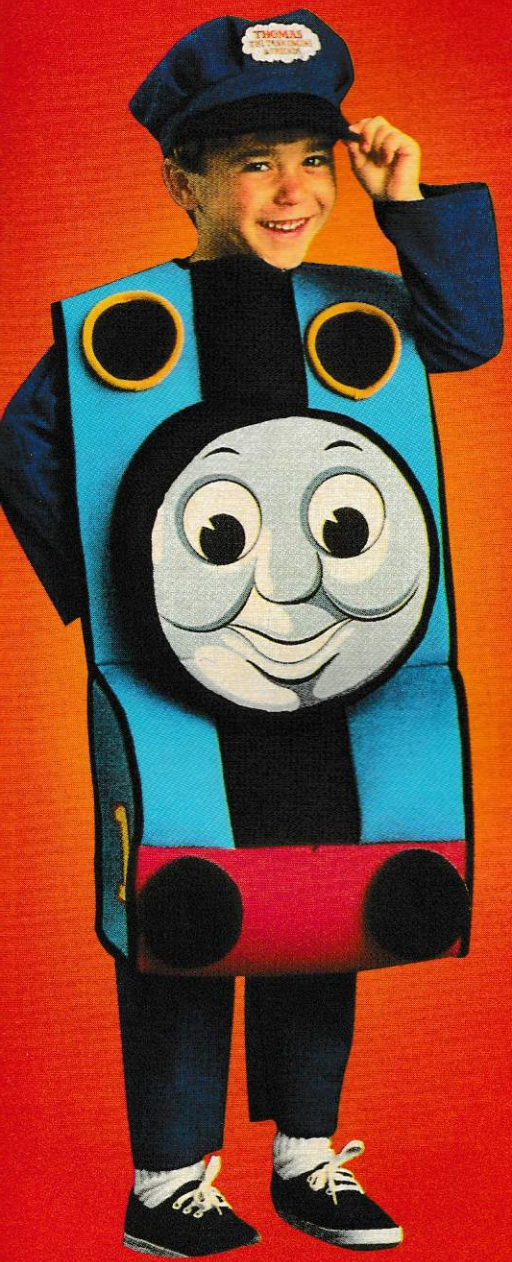

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All entries must be received by 9th October 1997

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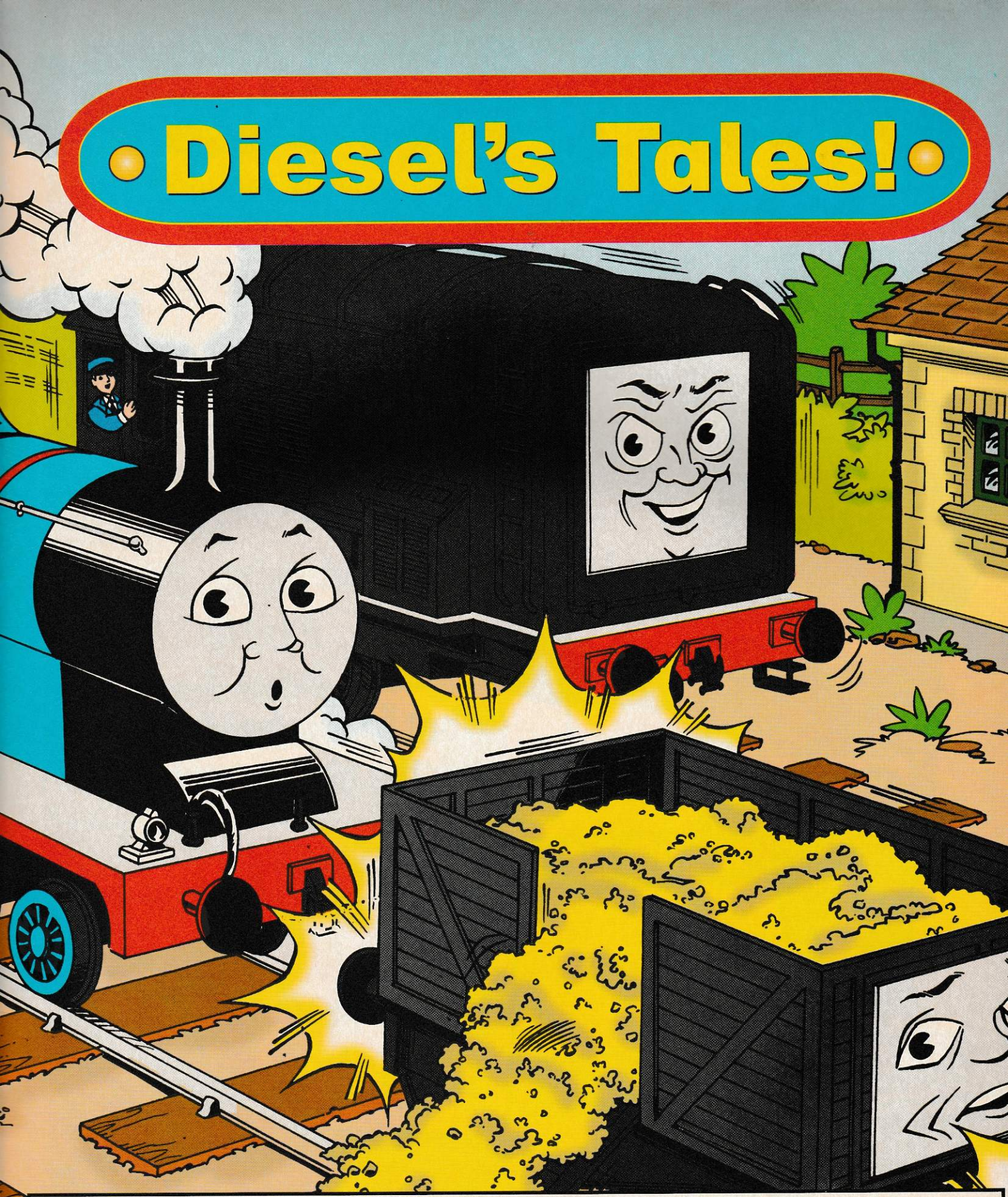
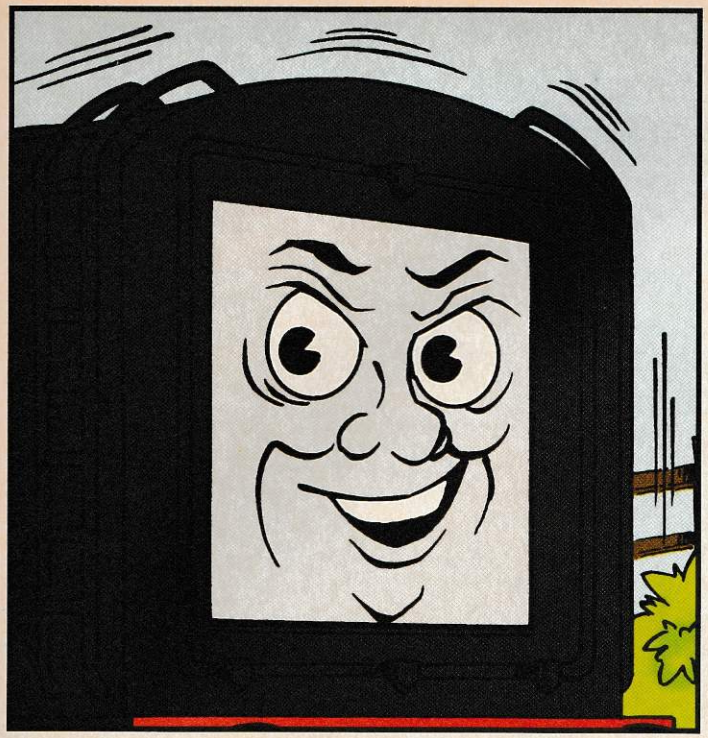
This competition is open to all readers other than employees and their families of participating companies. We cannot accept any responsibility for prizes lost or damaged in the post. The Editor's decision is final and no correspondence shall be entered into.

Diesel's Tales!

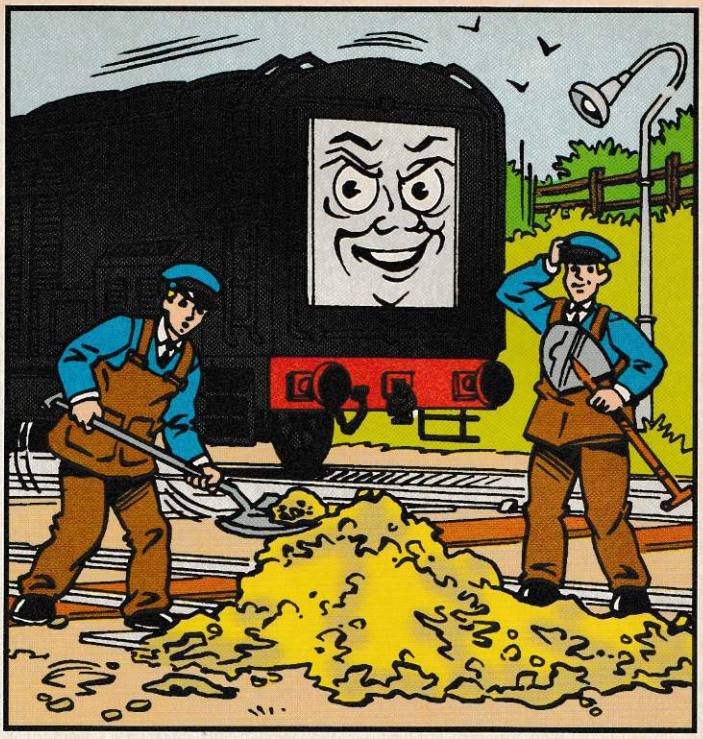


1. One morning, Edward was working hard shunting truckloads of sand in the goods yard. One line of trucks was really long so he gave it an extra hard push to get it to move!

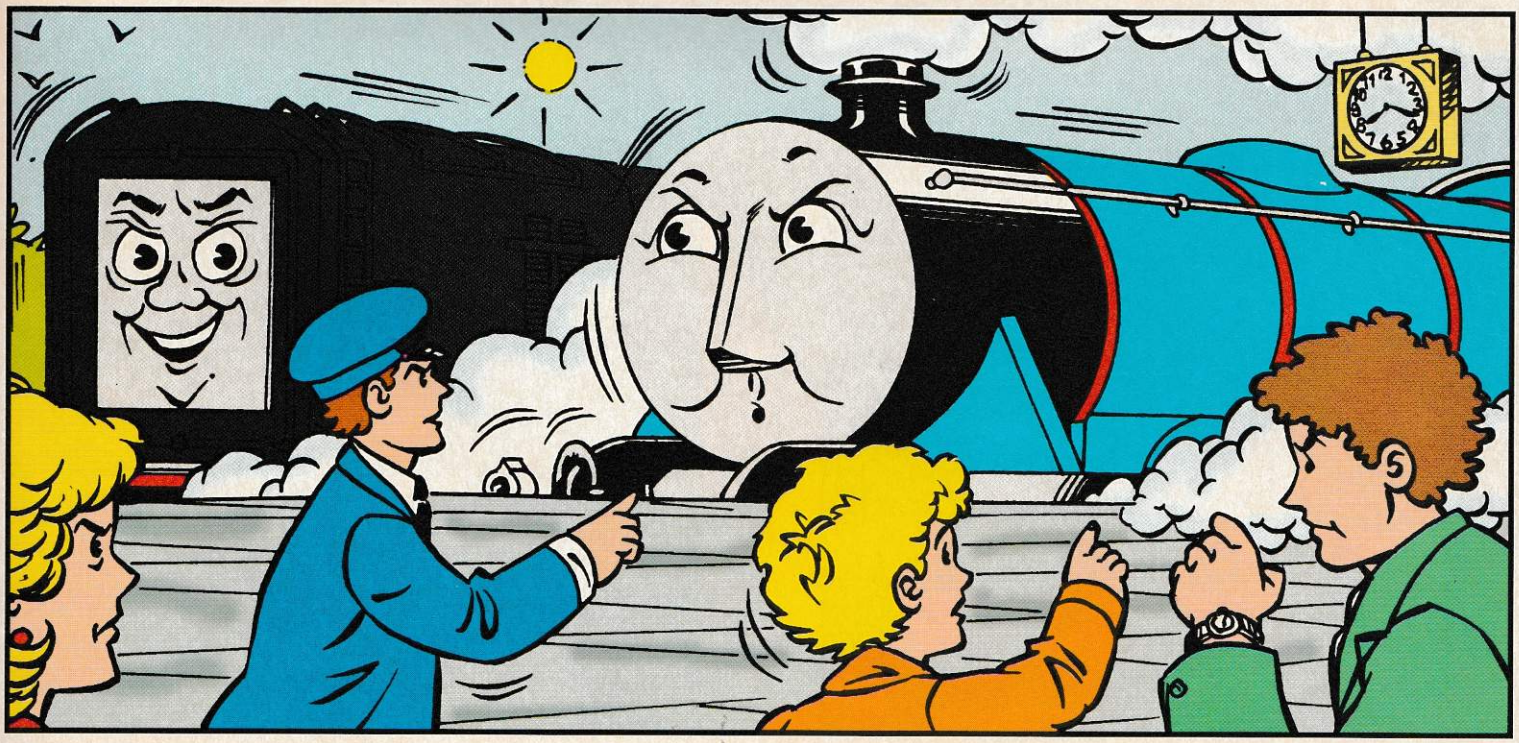
2. But Edward pushed too hard and suddenly there was a big 'CRASH!' The trucks smashed into the buffers, doors flew open and sand poured out! "You clumsy clot!" laughed Diesel.



3. "The Fat Controller will be pleased to hear about this!" he laughed, meanly. This made Edward cross. "There's no need to tell tales, Diesel, the sand can easily be shovelled up!"



4. "Well, I think the Fat Controller should know! This will teach you not to turn the yard into a giant sand-pit!" argued Diesel, in his oily voice. Then off he went to tell his tale.

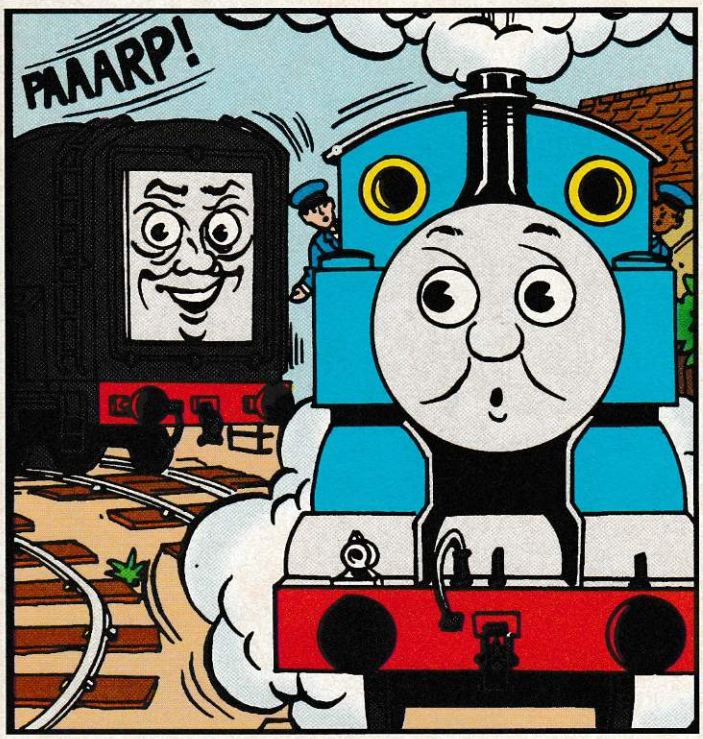


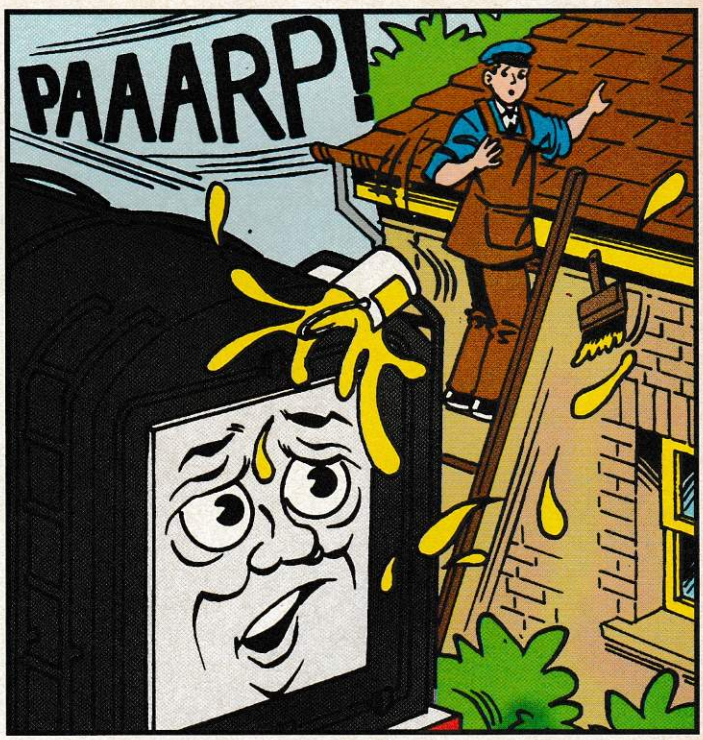
5. Later, at Wellsworth, Gordon's express pulled in ten minutes late. Some people were looking at their watches, and Diesel was shunting slowly by with a sly grin on his face.

6. "Tut, tut, ten minutes late, Gordon! I'll have to let the Fat Controller know that you're running out of steam!" he called. Gordon was furious. "Don't go telling tales, Diesel!" he fumed.

7. That afternoon, Diesel saw Percy who had stopped for a chat with his friend Terence the tractor. They didn't see him till he drew level with them and gave a noisy, nasty, "HOOOT!"

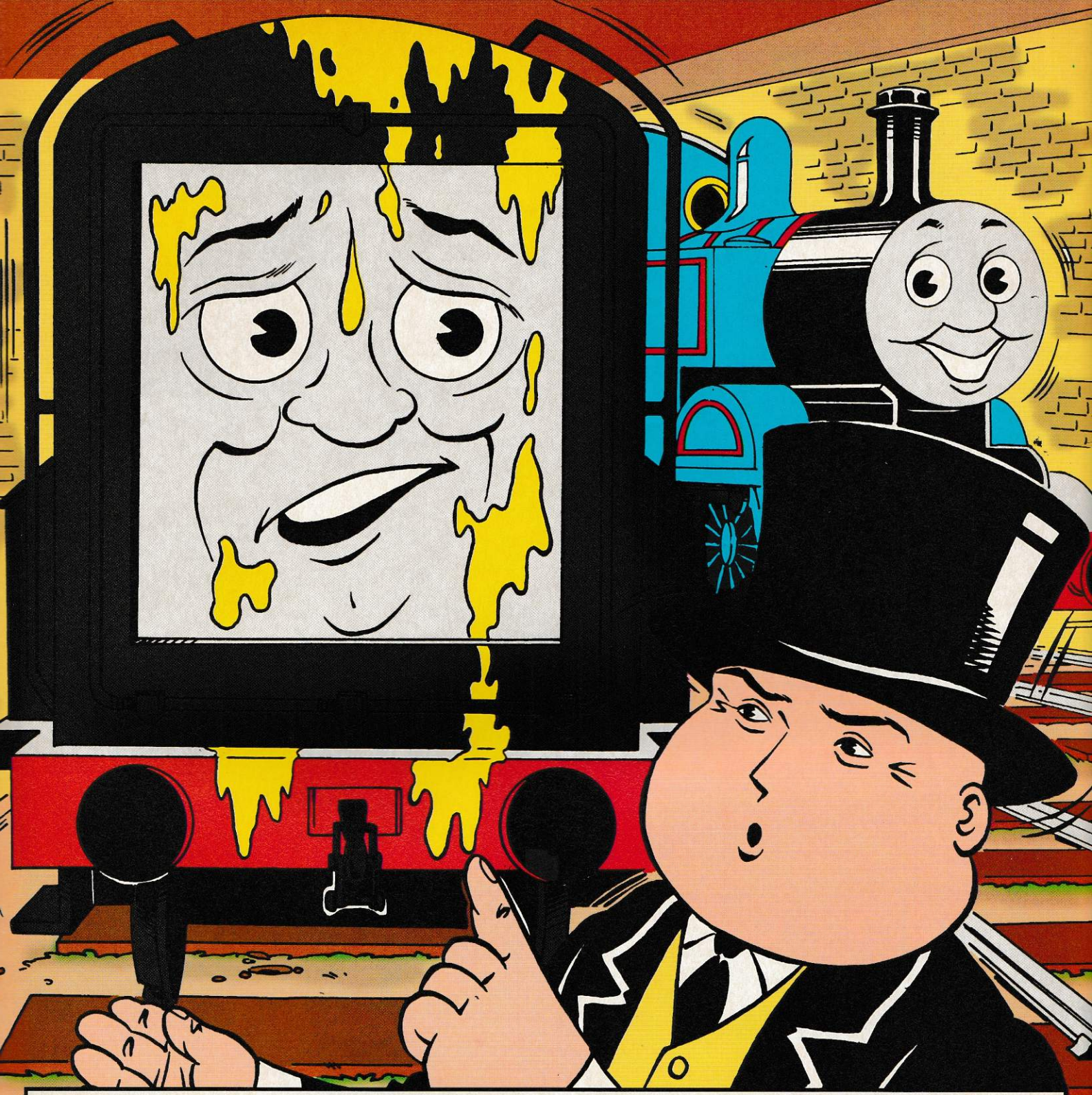
8. "Time for a chat eh, Percy? You engines should take your work more seriously!" droned Diesel. Cheeky Percy just laughed, "clear off, Oily!" And Diesel did, to tell another tale!





9. But as Diesel approached the Main Station to see the Fat Controller, he saw Thomas ahead. Another wicked grin lit up his face as he let out a huge 'PAAARP!' right behind him.

10. Poor Thomas nearly jumped off the rails, and a man on a ladder who was painting the edge of the station roof jumped too! He dropped his big tin of yellow paint all over Diesel!



11. Suddenly, Diesel felt very silly, and Thomas grinned. "The joke's on you now, Diesel!" he peeped. Later, back at the shed, paint-covered Diesel had to face everyone. The Fat Controller was there and Thomas spoke up. "As you know, I don't normally tell tales, Sir, but I saw Diesel frighten a painter today with a really loud 'PAAARP!" The other engines sniggered!

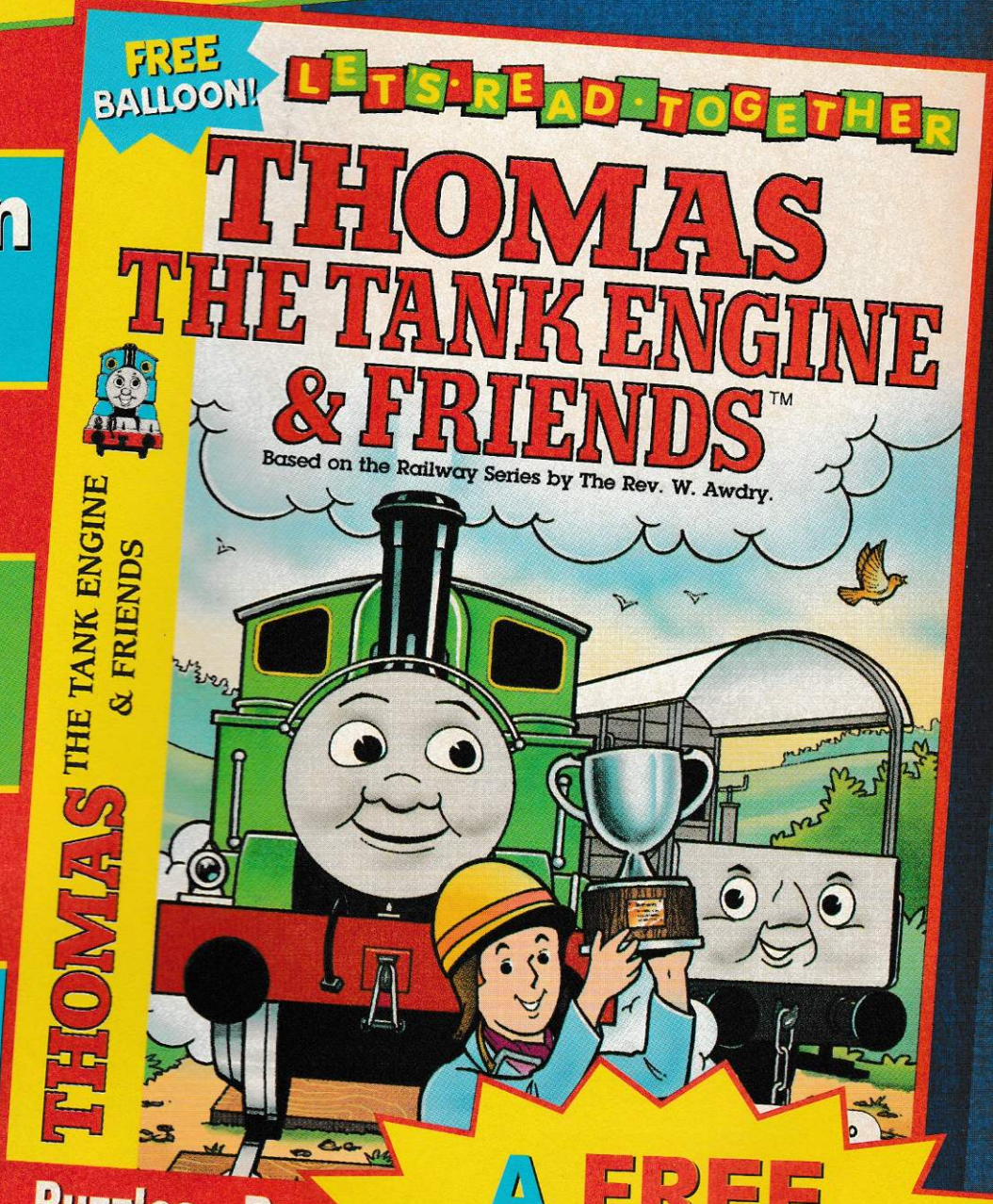
12. "Oh be quiet! Everyone can see I'm covered in paint!" grumbled Diesel. "Serves you right, tell-tale!" whistled Gordon, Edward and Percy together. The Fat Controller looked stern. "Let this be a lesson to you, Diesel!" he said. "I don't listen to tell-tales, especially if you can't be good yourself!" Then he looked around and smiled. "And that goes for all my engines!"

In the NEXT ISSUE!

Competition fun!

Stories & puzzles!

Reading & colouring!



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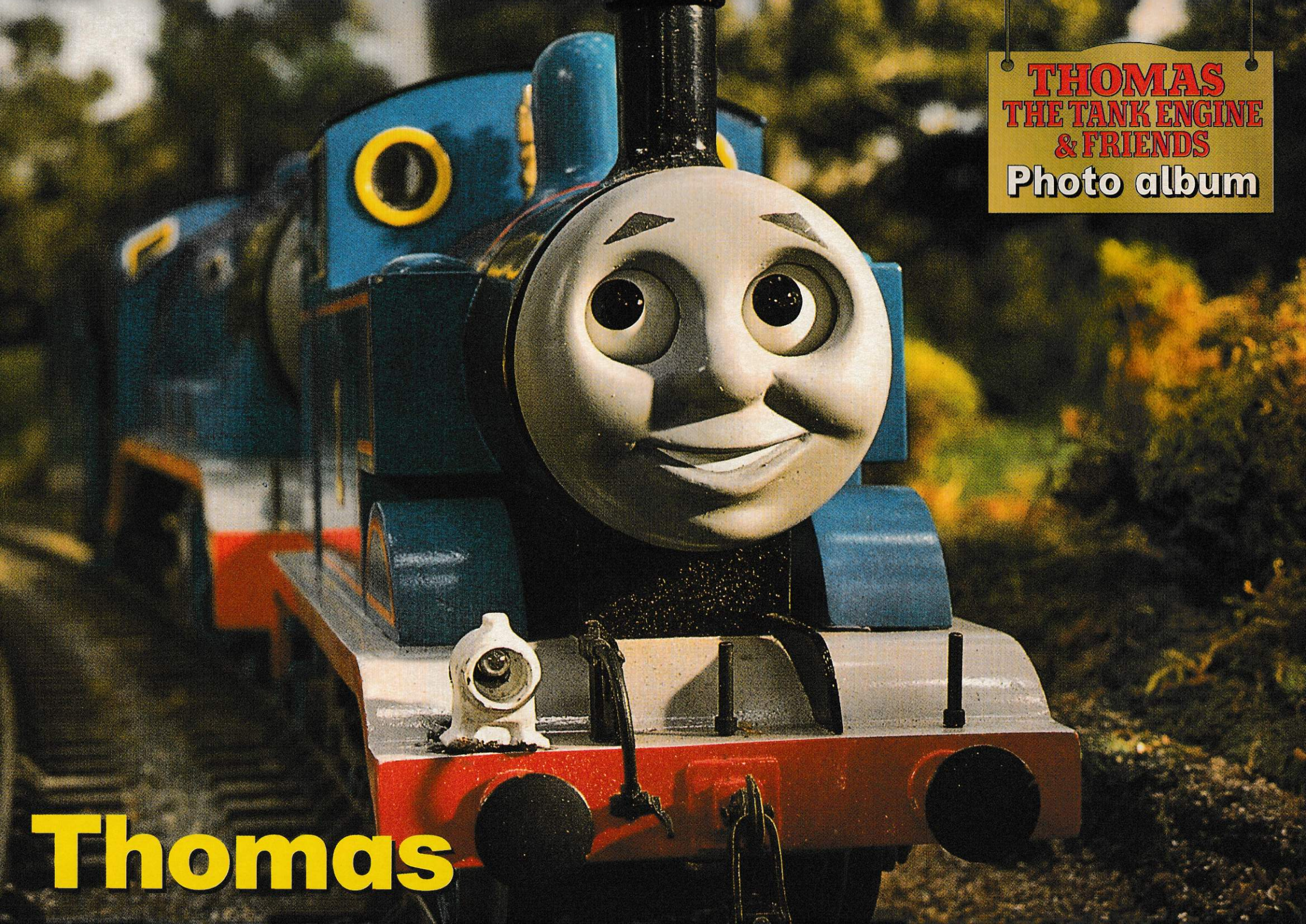
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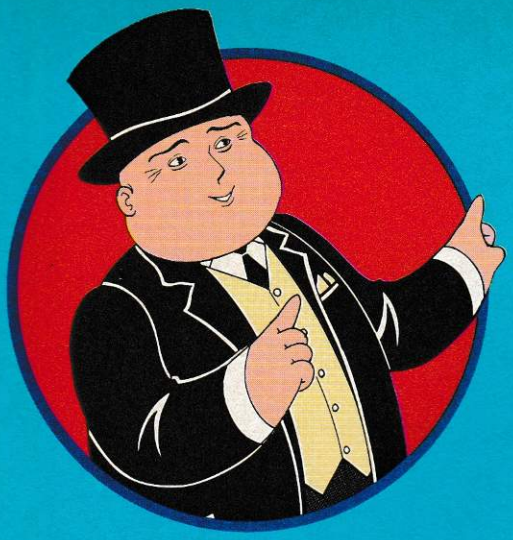


The m

Please send your letters, pictures and drawings to Mail Train, Thomas, Marvel Comics, Panini House, Coach and Horses Passage, Tunbridge Wells, Kent, TN2 5UJ.

Star Letter

Dear Fat Controller,
Why are James and Rusty both number 5 engines? Do you get confused telling them apart too?

From Simon Dixon, aged 9.

No I don't get muddled because they work on different railways. James puffs along the North Western Railway and Rusty helps out the little engines on the Skarloey Railway! James would probably say his bright red boiler makes him stand out from *everybody*!

If we print you're STAR LETTER, you will receive a Fat Controller, a Porter, Thomas & Annie and Clarabel as a prize!

4 year old Eddie Burston has sent me this excellent picture of cute little Percy!

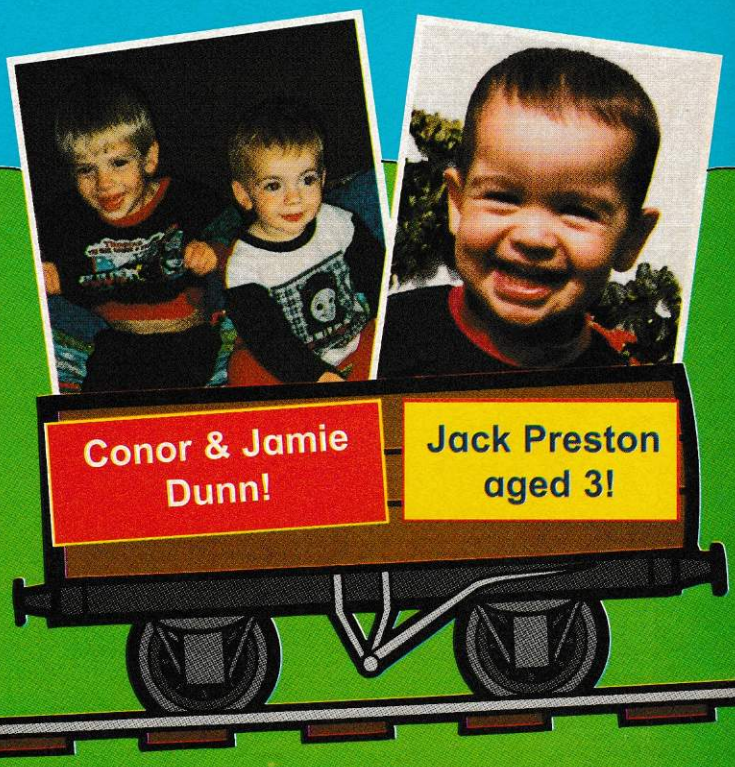
Prize Poem!

Geoffrey Emmer wins a prize for this poem about Edward!

Edward is number 2,
His paint is bright blue.
A very old engine is he.
All of the while,
his face has a smile,
That is a fact, believe me!

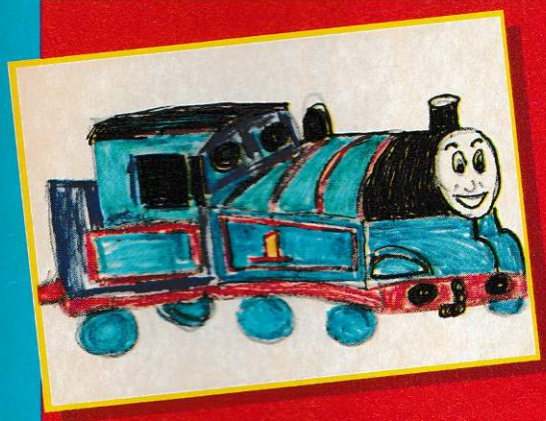
Happy Birthday

To: Stephen Browne, aged 6,
Sam Hart, aged 5,
John Rainford, aged 5,
Barbara Moore, aged 7,
Jessica Barrow, aged 3,
Mark Paine, aged 6 &
Paul Modart.



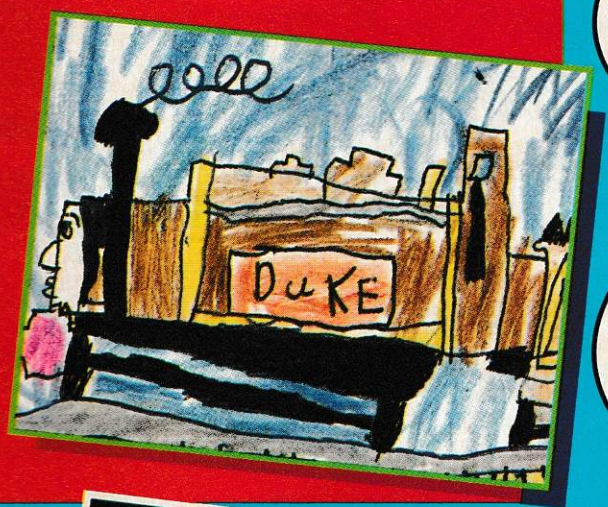
ail train!

Anyone who has a drawing printed on this page will win a set of special Thomas Glitter Stickers.



"Peep! Peep!" Here comes Thomas with a big smile. By Michael Wood, aged 5!

Thanks to Joseph Gosling, aged 6, for sending in this drawing of Duke!



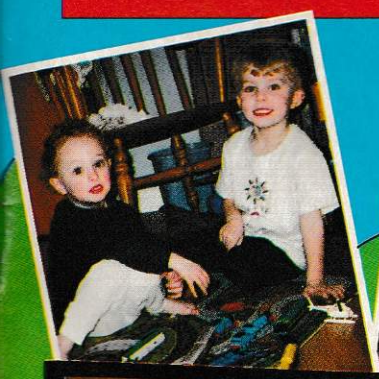
Percy's Jokes!

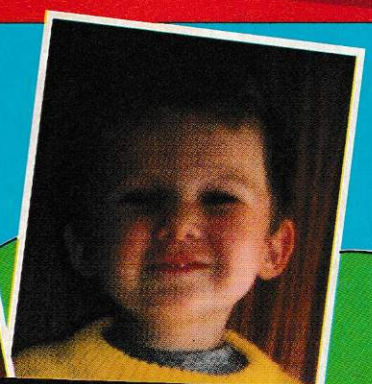
Have you got a favourite joke or funny story? Why not send it to Percy?

Why was the sand wet?
Because the sea weed!
Daniel Kelly, aged 6!

"Knock, Knock," said Thomas.
"Who's there?" said Bertie.
"Two," said Thomas.
"Two who?" said Bertie.
"No, Toot, Toot!" said Thomas' whistle!
Daniel Thomas!

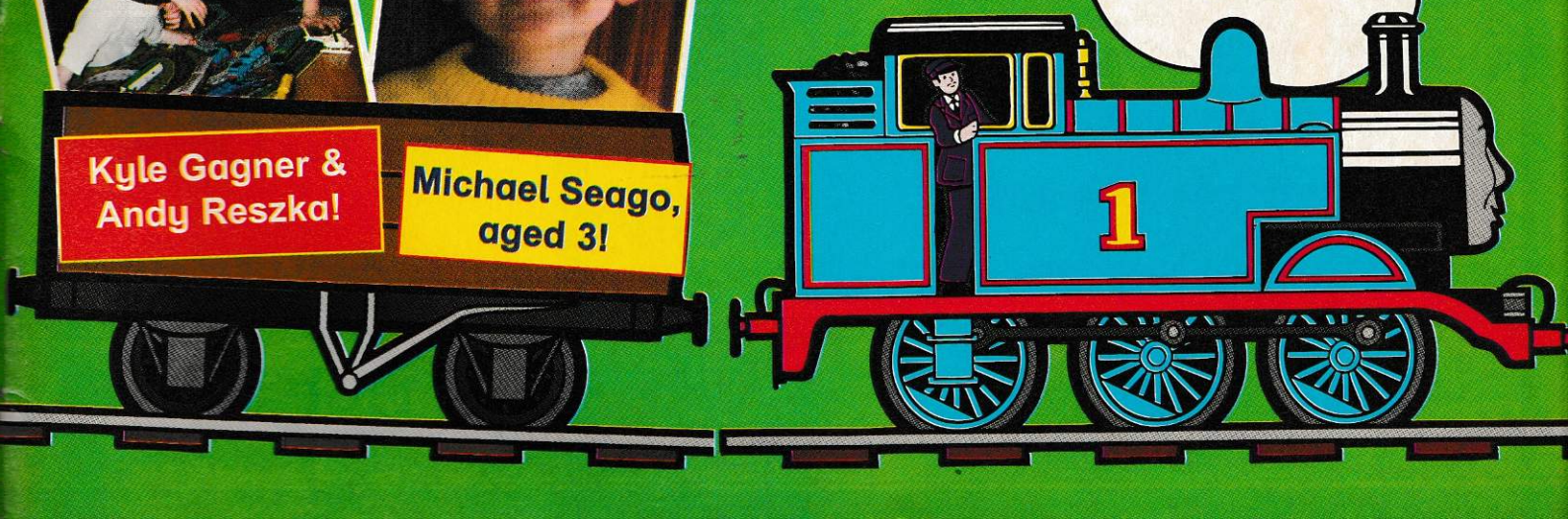
What goes up then the rain comes down?
An umbrella!
Alison Hatton, aged 5!





Kyle Gagner & Andy Reszka!

Michael Seago, aged 3!



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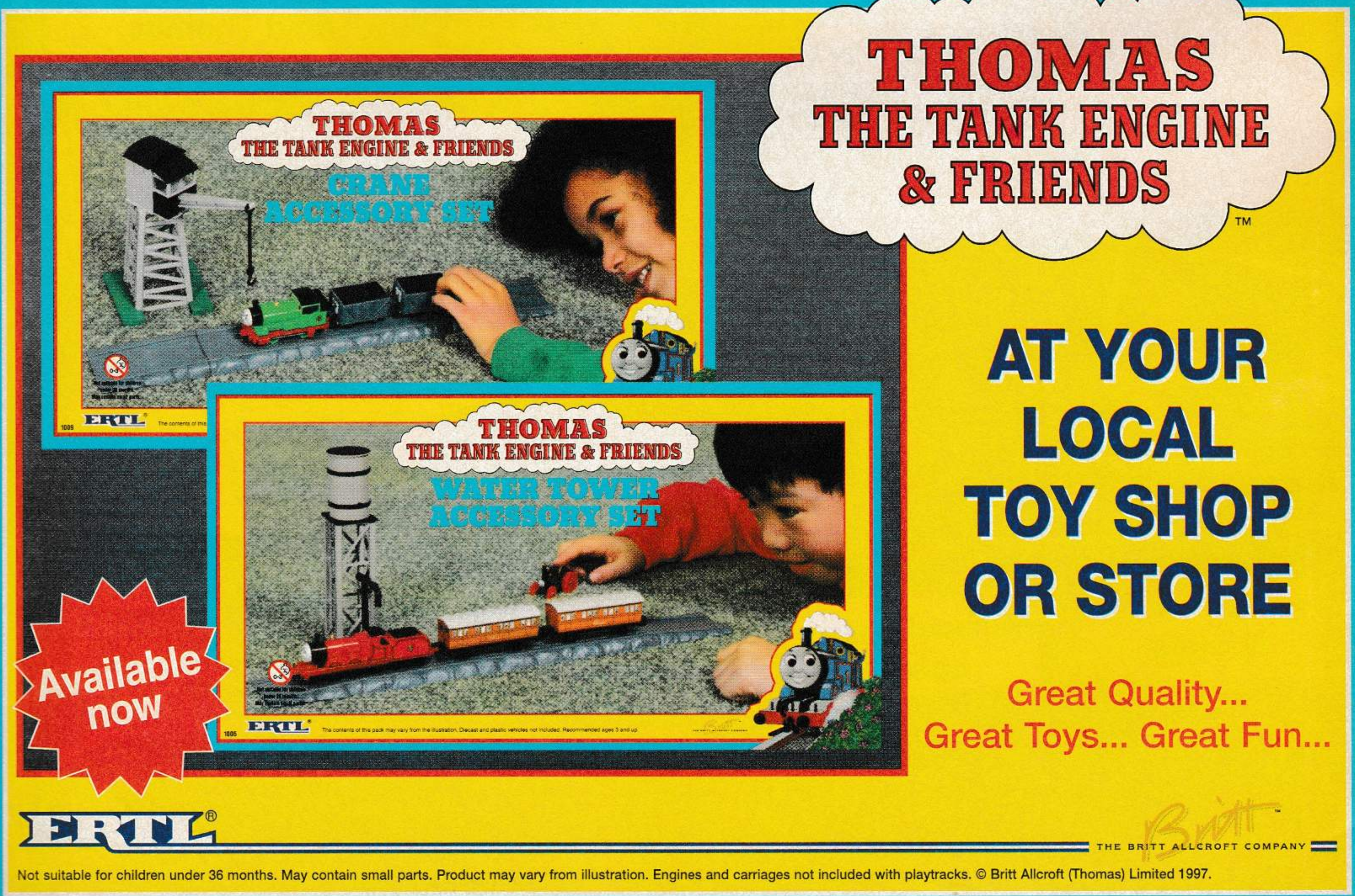

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